APPENDICES

APPENDIX A

KING RANGE ACT OF 1970

APPENDIX A

Public Law 91-476
91st Congress, H.R. 12870
October 21, 1970

AN ACT

94 Stat/67

To provide for the establishment of the King Range National Conservation Area in the State of California

Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Secretary of the Interior (hereinafter referred to as the "Secretary") is hereby authorized and directed, after compliance with Sections 3 and 4 of this Act, to establish, within the boundaries described in Section 9 of this Act, the King Range National Conservation Area in the State of California (hereinafter referred to as the "Area"), and to consolidate and manage the public lands in the area with the purpose of conserving and developing, for the use and benefit of the people of the United States, the lands and other resources therein under a program of multiple usage and of sustained yield.

Section 2. (a) In the management of lands in the area, the Secretary shall utilize and develop the resources in such a manner as to satisfy all legitimate requirements for the available resources as fully as possible without undue denial of any of such requirements and without undue impairment of any of the resources, taking into consideration total requirement and total availability of resources, irrespective of ownership or location.

(b) The policy set forth in subsection (a) implies–

(1) that there will be a comprehensive, balanced, and coordinated plan of land use, development, and management of the Area, and that such plan will be based on an inventory and evaluation of the available resources and requirements for such resources, and on the topography and other features of the Area.

(2) that the plan will indicate the primary or dominant uses which will be permitted on various portions of the Area.

(3) that the plan will be based on a weighing of the relative values to be obtained by utilization and development of the resources for alternative possible uses, and will be made with the object of obtaining the greatest values on a continuing basis, and that due consideration will be given to intangible values a well as to tangible values such as dollar return or production per unit.

(4) that secondary or collateral uses may be permitted to the extent that such uses are compatible with and do not unduly impair the primary or dominant uses, according to seasonable schedule or otherwise.

(5) that management of the renewable resources will be such as to obtain a sustained, regular, or periodic yield or supply of products or services without impairment of the productivity, or the enjoyment or carrying capacity of the land.

(6) that the plan will be reviewed and reevaluated periodically.

(7) that the resources to be considered are all the natural resources including but not limited to the soils, bodies of water, including the shorelines thereof, forest growth including timber, vegetative cover including forage, fish, and other wildlife, and geological resources including minerals.

(8) that the uses to be considered are all of the legitimate uses of such resources including but not limited to all forms of outdoor recreation including scenic enjoyment, hunting, fishing, hiking, riding, camping, picnicking, boating, and swimming, all uses of water resources, watershed management, production of timber and other forest producers, grazing and other agricultural uses, fish and wildlife management, mining, preservation of ecological balance, scientific study, occupancy and access.

Section 3. The Secretary shall use public and private assistance as he may require, for the purpose of preparing for the Area a program of multiple usage and of sustained yield of renewable natural resources. Such program shall include but need not be limited to (1) a quantitative and qualitative analysis of the resources of the Area; (2) the proposal boundaries of the Area; (3) a plan of land use, development, and management of the Area together with any proposed cooperative activities with the State of California, local governments, and others; (4) a statement of expected costs and an economic analysis of the program with particular reference to costs to the United States and expected economic effects on local communities and governments; and (5) an evaluation by the Secretary of the program in terms of the public interest.

Section 4. The Secretary shall establish the Area after a period of at least ninety calendar days from and after the date that he has (1) submitted copies of the program required by section 3 to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Governor of the State of California, and the governing body of the county or counties in which the area is located and (2) published a notice of intention to establish the area in the Federal Register and in at least two newspapers which circulate generally within the Area.

Section 5. The Secretary is authorized–

(1) to conduct a public hearing or hearings to receive expression of local views relating to establishment of the area.

(2) to acquire by donation, by purchase with donated funds or with funds appropriated specifically for that purpose, or by exchange, any land or interest in land within the area described in section 9, which the Secretary, in his judgment, determines to be desirable for consolidation of public lands within the Area in order to facilitate efficient and beneficial management of the public lands or otherwise to accomplish the purposes of this Act: *Provided*, That the Secretary may not acquire, without the consent of the owner, any such lands or interests therein which are utilized on the effective date of this Act for residential, agricultural, or commercial purposes so long as he finds such property is devoted to uses compatible with the purposes of this Act. Any lands or interests in lands acquired by the United

States under the authority of this section shall, upon acceptance of title, become public lands and shall become a part of the area subject to all the laws and regulations applicable thereto.

(3) in the exercise of his authority to acquire land or interests in land by exchange under this Act, to accept title to any non-Federal land located within the Area and to convey to the grantor of such land not to exceed an equal value of surveyed, unappropriated, and unreserved public lands or interests, in lands and appropriated funds when in his judgment the exchange will be in the public interest and in accordance with the following:

(A) The public lands offered in exchange for non-Federal lands or interests in non-Federal lands must be in the same county or counties, and must be classified by the Secretary as suitable for exchange. For a period of five years, any such public lands suitable for transfer to nonpublic ownership shall be classified for exchange under this Act.

(B) If the lands or interests in lands offered in exchange for public lands have a value at least equal to two-thirds of the value of the public lands, the exchange may be completed upon payment to the Secretary of the difference in value, or the submittal of a cash deposit or a performance bond in an amount at least equal to the difference in value assuring that additional lands acceptable to the Secretary and at least equal to the difference in value will be conveyed to the Government within a time certain to be specified by the Secretary.

(C) If the public lands offered in exchange for non-Federal lands or interests in non-Federal lands have a value at least equal to two-thirds of the value of the non-Federal lands, the exchange may be completed upon payment by the Secretary of the difference in value.

(D) Either party to an exchange under this Act may reserve minerals, easements, or rights of use either for its own benefit, for the benefit of third parties, or for the benefit of the general public. Any such reservation, whether in lands conveyed to or by the United States, shall be subject to such reasonable conditions respecting ingress and egress and the use of the surface of the land as may be deemed necessary by the Secretary. When minerals are reserved in a conveyance by the United States, any person who prospects for or acquires the right to mine and remove the reserved mineral deposits shall be liable to the surface owners according to their respective interests for any actual damage to the surface or to the improvements thereon resulting from prospecting, entering, or mining operations; and such persons hall, prior to entering, either obtain the surface owner's written consent, or file with the Secretary a good and sufficient bond or undertaking to the United States in an amount acceptable to the Secretary for the use and benefit of the surface owner to secure payment of such damages as may be determined in an action brought on the bond or undertaking in a court of competent jurisdiction.

(4) in the exercise of his authority to purchase lands under this Act to pay for any such purchased lands their fair market value, as determined by the Secretary, who may, in his discretion, base his determination on an independent appraisal obtained by him.

(5) to identify the appropriate public uses of all of the public lands and interests therein within the Area. Disposition of the public lands within the Area, or any of the lands subsequently acquired as part of the area, is prohibited, and the lands in the Area described in Section 9 of this Act are hereby withdrawn from all forms of entry, selection, or location under existing or subsequent law, except as

provided in Section 6 of this Act. Notwithstanding any provision of this section, the Secretary may (A) exchange public lands or interests therein within the area for privately owned lands or interests therein also located within the area, and (B) issue leases, licenses, contracts, or permits as provided by other laws.

(6) to construct or cause to be constructed and to operate and maintain such roads, trails, and other access and recreational facilities in the area as the Secretary deems necessary and desirable for the proper protection, utilization, and development of the area.

(7) to reforest and revegetate such lands within the area and install such soil- and water-conserving works and practices to reduce erosion and improve forge and timber capacity as the Secretary deems necessary and desirable.

(8) to enter into such cooperative arrangements with the State of California, local governmental agencies, and nonprofit organizations as the Secretary deems necessary or desirable concerning but not limited to installation, construction, maintenance, and operation of access and recreational facilities, reforestation, revegetation, soil and moisture conservation, and management of fish and wildlife including hunting and fishing and control of predators. The Secretary shall permit hunting and fishing on land and waters under the jurisdiction within the boundaries of the recreation area in accordance with the applicable laws of the United States and the State of California, except that the Secretary may designate zones where, and establish periods when, no hunting or fishing shall be permitted for reasons of public safety, administration, fish and wildlife management, or public use and enjoyment. Except in emergencies, any regulations of the Secretary pursuant to this section shall be put into effect only after consultation with the appropriate State fish and game department.

(9) to issue such regulations and to do such other things as the Secretary deems necessary and desirable to carry out the terms of this Act.

Section 6. (a) Subject to valid existing rights, nothing in this Act shall affect the applicability of the United States mining laws on the federally owned lands within the Area, except that all prospecting commenced or conducted and all mining claims located after the effective date of this Act shall be subject to such reasonable regulations as the Secretary may prescribe to effectuate the purposes of this Act. Any patent issued on any mining claim located after the effective date of this Act shall recite this limitation and continue to be subject to such regulations. All such regulations shall provide, among other things, for such measures as may be reasonable to protect the scenic and esthetic values of the Area against undue impairment and to assure against pollution of the streams and waters within the Area.

(b) Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit or restrict rights of the owner or owners of any existing valid mining claim.

Section 7. Except as may otherwise be provided in this Act, the public lands within the area shall be administered by the Secretary under any authority available to him for the conservation, development, and management of natural resources on public lands in California withdrawn by Executive Order Numbered 6910, dated November 26, 1934, to the extent that he finds such authority will further the purposes of this Act.

Section 8. The objectives of Executive Order Numbered 5237, dated December 10, 1929, which withdraw certain public lands for classification, having been accomplished by the enactment of this Act, that Executive order is hereby revoked effective as of the date the Secretary establishes the area.

Section 9. (a) The survey and investigation area referred to in the first section of this Act is described as follows:

MOUNT DIABLO MERIDIAN, CALIFORNIA

- Township 24 North, Range 19 West, Sections 4 and 5.

HUMBOLDT MERIDIAN, CALIFORNIA

- Township 5 south, range 1 east, all sections in township.
- Township 5 south, range 2 east, section 6, lots 4 through 9; 16 through 21; and 24 through 26; section 7, lots 2 through 7; 10 through 15; section 18, lots 1 through 16; section 19, lots 1 through 16; southwest quarter northeast quarter and west half southeast quarter and sections 30 and 31; section 32, southwest quarter northeast quarter; south half northwest quarter; northwest quarter northwest quarter; southwest quarter and west half southeast quarter.
- Township 4 south, range 1 west, all sections in township.
- Township 4 south, range 1 east; section 4, south half; south half northeast quarter and south half northwest quarter; sections 5 through 9; 15 through 23; section 24, west half; section 25, west half; sections 26 through 35; section 36, lots 3 through 5 and 8 through 11 and southeast quarter.
- Township 4 south, range 2 east, section 31, west half southeast quarter and southwest quarter.
- Township 3 south, range 2 west, section 12, southeast quarter southeast quarter; sections 13 through 16 and 22 through 25.
- Township 3 south, range 1 west, section 9, southwest quarter southwest quarter; section 12, south half southeast quarter and south half southwest quarter; sections 13 through 36.
- Township 3 south, range 1 east, section 18, lots 1 through 4; section 19, lots 1 and 2, southwest quarter and west half southeast quarter; section 29, southwest quarter northwest quarter and west half southwest quarter; section 30 and 31; section 32, west half.
- Township 2 south, range 2 west, section 31, north half of lot 2 of the southwest quarter (43.40 acres of public land withdrawn by Executive Order 5237 of December 10, 1929); and 22.8 acres of acquired fee lands described by metes and bounds in section 31, township 2 south, range 2 west, and section 36, township 2 south, range 3 west; and 31.27 acres of acquired easements described by metes and bounds across certain sections in township 2 south, ranges 2 and 3 west.

(b) In addition to the lands described in subsection (a) of this section, the Secretary is authorized to acquire such land outside the area but in close proximity thereto as is necessary to facilitate sound management. Acquisition hereunder shall, however, not exceed three hundred and twenty acres and shall be limited to such purposes as headquarters facility requirements, ingress and egress routes and, where necessary, to straighten boundaries or round out acquisitions.

Section 10. There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to accomplish the purposes of this Act, but not to exceed $1,500,000 for the purchase of lands and interests in lands and not to exceed $3,500,000 for the construction of improvements.

Approved October 21, 1970.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY:

HOUSE REPORT NO. 91-1440 (Comm. On Interior and Insular Affairs).

SENATE REPORT No. 91-1270 (Comm. On Interior and Insular Affairs).

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, Vol. 116 (1970):
Sept. 21, considered and passed House.
Oct. 7, considered and passed Senate, amended.
Oct. 8, House occurred in Senate amendments.

APPENDIX B

SUPPLEMENTAL RULES

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SUPPLMENTAL RULES

PROPOSED RULES

Areas of Critical Environmental Concern

The following rules apply to Areas of Critical Environmental Concern under authority of 43 CFR 1610.7.2(2)b:

Mill Creek and Mattole ACECs

- Commercial harvesting of vegetative materials (i. e.special forest products including mushrooms, beargrass, floral boughs etc.) is not permitted.

Mill Creek ACEC Only (680 acres)

- Day-use only (no overnight camping).
- No campfires are permitted.
- Pets must be on a leash and under control at all times.

The rules above would automatically apply to any additional lands that the BLM acquires within the Mill Creek Watershed.

Mattole ACEC only (655 Acres)

- Firewood collecting is not permitted, except that driftwood may be collected for campfire use during a stay at the Mattole Campground or surrounding dispersed sites. Wood may only be collected with hand tools/saws. No chainsaws or power saws may be used.
- Use of watercraft with internal combustion engines, including all inboard and outboard motor boats, jet skis and other personal watercraft is not permitted within the Mattole Estuary.
- (see Camping limits below for limits that apply to the Mattole ACEC)

Planning Area-Wide

The following rules apply to the entire planning area, except where noted.

Bear Canister Requirement (43 CFR 8365. 1-6)

Note: This rule has been in place as an emergency rule since 2002.
All dispersed use overnight users camping on BLM-administered public lands within the boundaries of the King Range National Conservation Area planning area are required to carry and use hard-sided bear-proof food storage canisters. The canisters must be of sufficient size to permit storage of all food, toiletries, sunscreen, surfboard wax, insect repellant, and other scented items for the duration of the trip.

Each person must posses a minimum of one canister, and must use the canister to store the above types of items, plus any food scraps and scented trash items such as empty cans, energy/candy wrappers, surf wax wrappers etc. For the purposes of this rule, a "dispersed use" location is defined as any place outside of a developed campground where food and other scented items cannot be stored inside a locked vehicle. Also, "hard sided" means a container made of rigid material of a size and shape that cannot be grasped by the mouth or paws, or otherwise be carried for any significant distance by bears. The container must also have a closing and latching lid that is tested and proven effective against bears. Stock users must use either portable bear canisters or bear proof panniers of sufficient size to store materials for all party members for the duration of the trip. This proposed supplemental rule does not apply to overnight use within designated campgrounds or camping near vehicles where food can be stored and locked inside.

Requirement for Permits

- **Commercial Groups:** All commercial groups are required to obtain Special Recreation Permits for use of BLM managed lands as outlined in 43 CFR 2932.11(a)(1)
- **Organized non-commercial groups:** A non-commercial permit will be required but no commercial fee will be charged (dispersed use fees and permit processing fees may still apply) and no insurance required for noncommercial and certain educational group use. This includes such groups as outdoor clubs, scouts, fraternal organizations, school field labs and other organizations/group outings where charges are limited to a sharing of group expenses. No paid guides accompany the group, and fees do not offset other costs of running the organization. (Authority 43 CFR 2932.11(b)(2) and (3) (i – iii)
- **Individual and family use** (applies to Backcountry Zone only): A permit system will be established for individual and family users who access the Backcountry Zone for overnight use. This will be an interim measure to improve information dispersal to the public and to provide visitor use statistics for inclusion in developing the visitor use allocation plan. The permit will document information on group size, trail and camping destinations, and other information necessary to determine use trends. (The permit system would be established under the authority of 43 CFR 2932.11(b)(1) special area permits)
- **Competitive uses** (applies to Backcountry Zone only): Competitive uses as defined under 43 CFR 2932.5 (1) and (2) will not be permitted in the Backcountry Zone.

Interim Visitor Use Allocation Measures

43 CFR 2932.40 and .41 authorize the following stipulations and conditions to meet management goals and objectives and to protect lands and resources and the public interest. These rules apply only to the Backcountry Zone:

- **Commercial Outfitters only**: Commercial outfitters would not be allowed to operate during Memorial Day weekend, or the Fourth of July and closest weekend preceeding or following the 4th of July. Commercial groups must camp a minimum of ¼ mile north of Black Sands Beach trailhead.
- **Commercial and Organized Groups only:**
    - Daily Trailhead Limit: 30 people per day may leave each trailhead. Stock animals will not be counted in this total.

- Group Use Areas: Permit stipulations will direct groups to specific locations that can accommodate larger groups without overwhelming the campsite capacity and diminishing the quality of the backcountry experience at other locations. Initially identified group use areas include the following: Permitted groups having multiple layover days are required to camp at *Big Flat/Miller Flat*. *Spanish Flat* has been identified as a second location to focus organized group camping.
- Group Avoidance Areas: Commercial and organized group camping is not permitted at Buck, and Shipman Creeks except under special circumstances as approved on a case-by-case basis by the authorized officer.

- **All Overnight Visitors to Backcountry Zone**
  - Group Size Limits: On all trails, a maximum of 15 people per group.
  - Stock Use groups: Up to 25 "heartbeats" (people/stock combination), with a maximum of 15 people per group.

Motorized Watercraft Landings

(43 CFR 8365.1-6) Shore landings of motorized watercraft, including boats, zodiacs, jet skis, and other craft powered with internal combustion engines is prohibited, as this use is not consistent with the primitive recreation use objectives of the Backcountry Zone. This would not affect offshore anchorages or emergency landings.

Visitor Use Fees

(43 CFR 2932.30 and .31(d)(1)) (Backcountry Zone only) A fee would be established for overnight backcountry use in conjunction with implementing the permit program and visitor use allocation system. No fees are anticipated for day use. All fees would be used to offset costs associated with the visitor use allocation system. Funds would also be reinvested into management and protection of backcountry resources, providing maintenance, and visitor services.

Off Highway Vehicle Designations

As required under 43 CFR 8342.1 AND .2, all public lands in the planning area have been identified as either open, limited or closed to Off Highway Vehicle (OHV) Use. In addition, the proposed RMP identifies specific routes and their use limitations in Section 4.18.4. A map is also available for public review (Figure 4.9)

Camping Requirements (43 CFR 8364.1)

- **Mattole Beach Campground**: Public lands north of Lighthouse Road and south of the Mattole River for a distance of one mile inland from the Mattole Campground are closed to overnight camping. Public lands along Mattole Beach for 500 feet north (up the coast) and south (down the coast) of the Mattole Campground boundaries as denoted by the driftwood log barriers surrounding the campground are also closed to camping. The closure boundary will be displayed on a map at the entrance to the Mattole Campground.

Existing Rules

All supplemental rules relating to public lands in the King Range National Conservation Area that were in place prior to this RMP process will remain in effect.

APPENDIX C

LAND ACQUISITION AND EXCHANGE

APPENDIX C – LAND ACQUISITION AND EXCHANGE

Table 1: Type of Acquisition

TYPE OF ACQ.:	# PARCELS	ACREAGE TOTAL
Purchase	69	3,076.33
Exchange	46	22,207.89
Donation	4	0.69
Condemnation	2	440.08 (360 = "friendly" in 1975)
Total	**121**	**25,724.99**

Table 2: Land Transactions by Year

YEAR	# PARCELS	# ACRES ACQUIRED	# ACRES EXCHANGED	TIMBER ON EXCHANGED ACRES (MBF)*
1966	1	160	120	
1969	2	200	240	
1973	5	1812.92	360	775 (gained 2466)
1974	7	3691.30	1424.54	17688
1975	7	1862.96	1130.61	14379
1976	3	927.77	164.28	2850
1977	2	729.59	160	151
1978	4	2126.15	713.77	2960 (gained 522)
1979	2	1875.46	280	7879 (gained 919)
1980	3	111.28	0	0
1981	3	610	200	3062 (gained 1813)
1982	4	3024.68	2065.36	51599
1983	7	4612.83	3262.95	55152
1984	7	1756.66	1699.99	27805
1985	16	376.524	476.24	1077
1986	8	581.67	200	1241
1987	9	348.02	280	0
1988	3	86.57	0	0
1989	6	337.61	0	0
1990	3	120.21	0	0
1991	4	118.98	0	0
1992	1	44.88	0	(gained 666)
1993	4	1.02	0	0
1994	1	3.6	0	0
1998	7	204.006	0	0
2001	2	0.3	0	0
TOTALS		**25,724.99**	**12,777.74**	**186,618 (gained 6,386)**

* note that this figure does not include previously forested but cut-over lands acquired by BLM.

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APPENDIX D

WILD AND SCENIC RIVER ELIGIBILITY AND SUITABILITY STUDY

APPENDIX D

WILD AND SCENIC RIVER ELIGIBILITY AND SUITABILITY STUDY

WILD AND SCENIC RIVER SYSTEM

The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968 (Public Law 90-542) was passed by Congress to preserve riverine systems that contain outstanding features. The law was enacted during an era when many rivers were being dammed or diverted, to balance these developments by ensuring that certain rivers and streams remain in their free-flowing condition. The BLM is mandated to evaluate stream segments on public lands as potential additions to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System (NWSRS) during the Resource Management Plan (RMP) Process under Section 5(d) of the Act. The NWSRS study guidelines are found in BLM Manual 8351, U.S. Departments of Agriculture and Interior Guidelines, published in *Federal Register* Vol. 7, No.173, September 7, 1982 and in various BLM memoranda and policy statements. Formal designation as a Wild and Scenic River requires Congressional legislation, or designation can be approved by the Secretary of Interior if nominated by the Governor of the state containing the river segment. The following discussion provides information on how BLM considered waterways for potential inclusion in the NWSRS.

The NWSRS study process has three distinct steps:

- Determine what rivers or river segments are eligible for NWSRS designation
- Determine the potential classification of eligible river segments as wild, scenic, recreational or any combination thereof
- Conduct a suitability study to determine if the river segments are suitable for designation as components of the NWSRS

This report documents all three steps of the process for the streams in the planning area.

ELIGIBILITY OF KING RANGE STREAMS

Identification

A variety of sources were reviewed to identify waterways which could have potential for wild and scenic river designation. They include the Nationwide Rivers Inventory List, the Outstanding Rivers List compiled by American Rivers, Inc., river segments identified by state or local government, river segments identified by the public during formulation of this Resource Management Plan, and river segments identified by the planning team as having potential to meet Wild and Scenic River eligibility requirements.

The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act defines a river as a "flowing body of water or estuary or a section, portion, or tributary thereof, including rivers, streams, creeks, runs, kills, rills, and small lakes."

Thirty-five stream segments totaling 103 miles within or immediately adjacent to the KRNCA boundaries were identified for review. Some streams were divided into segments, based on land status or classification criteria (see below).These rivers are listed in Table 1: Wild and Scenic River Inventory, and shown on Figure 3-2.

Eligibility Determination

Each identified river segment was evaluated to determine whether it is eligible for inclusion in the NWSRS. To be eligible, a river segment must be "free flowing" and must possess at least one "outstandingly remarkable value" (ORV). These values include:

- Scenic
- Recreational
- Geological
- Fish
- Wildlife
- Historical
- Cultural
- Ecological
- Riparian
- Botanical
- Hydrological
- Scientific

To be considered as "outstandingly remarkable," a river-related value must be a unique, rare, or exemplary feature that is significant at a comparative regional or national scale. Only one such value is needed for eligibility. All values should be directly river related, meaning they should:

- Be located in the river or on its immediate shorelands (generally within ¼ mile on either side of the river);
- Contribute substantially to the functioning of the river ecosystem; and/or
- Owe their location or existence to the presence of the river.

These are the only factors considered in determining the eligibility of a river segment. All other relevant factors are considered in determining suitability. A river need not be navigable by watercraft to be eligible. For purposes of eligibility determination, the volume of flow is sufficient if it is enough to maintain the outstandingly remarkable value(s) identified within the segment.

The KRNCA has long been recognized as having significant values as a wild, rugged, coastal landscape. Approximately 100 inches of annual rainfall contributes to the abundance of rivers and streams that are integral to the values of the area. The stream systems can be generally categorized into two groups based on their geology and other watershed characteristics:

1. West Slope Streams: West slope stream segments include many short, steep watersheds running directly to the ocean. None of the watersheds penetrate further inland than the spine of the King Crest which extends no further than three miles from the ocean. The west slope offers a backcountry setting of rugged coastal mountains and undeveloped coastline unique in California. River segments pass through a mosaic of vegetation types including Douglas fir, tanoak, and chaparral. Natural landslides

from intense winter storms are common in these watersheds. The lower segments of these streams are focal points for primitive backcountry recreational activities such as hiking, backpacking, and equestrian use on the Lost Coast Trail, one of the few coastal backpacking trails in the U.S. The entire west slope has received a Class "A" scenery rating in the BLM's visual resource management program inventory due to its wild, rugged nature and outstanding ocean views. A number of significant archaeological sites exist at creek mouths and most of the perennial streams include spawning and rearing habitat for federally listed threatened steelhead populations.

2. East Slope Streams: East slope watersheds, although still steep, are generally more extensive with longer, lower gradient stream channels. All east slope streams feed into the larger Mattole River watershed, which envelops the eastern side of the KRNCA as it flows northward, emptying into the ocean near Petrolia. The Mattole is one of the few major rivers in California that has no dams along its entire length. It is a major spawning stream for steelhead trout and Coho and Chinook salmon, all federally listed as threatened. Like most rivers in northwest California, the Mattole watershed was extensively logged from the 1940s-70s, increasing erosion; the resulting sedimentation has severely impacted fishery values. The east slope tributaries within the KRNCA contain some of the remaining habitat most suitable for anadromous fish spawning and rearing.

Vegetation is dominated by Douglas fir and tanoak forest with chaparral on the upper slopes, and extensive old-growth forests along the major drainages. As a result, the watersheds contain important wildlife values including verified activity centers for the northern spotted owl, also federally listed as threatened. Other values include some rare plants, archaeological sites, and scenic and recreational values.

Table 1 summarizes the eligibility evaluation of all identified river segments. The table includes information on the length of stream segments studied, BLM acreage (including a ¼ mile corridor on either side of the stream), indicates if outstandingly remarkable value(s) are present, and identifies the potential classification of each eligible segment. Table 2 gives more detailed descriptions of each eligible river segment's location and a brief narrative of its outstandingly remarkable value(s).

CLASSIFICATION

The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act and subsequent interagency guidelines provide the following direction for establishing preliminary classifications for eligible rivers:

Wild Rivers: Those rivers or sections of rivers that are free of impoundments and generally inaccessible except by trail, with watersheds or shorelines essentially primitive and waters unpolluted. These represent vestiges of primitive America.

Scenic Rivers: Those rivers or sections of rivers that are free of impoundments, with shorelines or watersheds still largely primitive and shorelines largely undeveloped, but accessible in places by roads.

Recreational Rivers: Those rivers or sections of rivers readily accessible by road or railroad that may have some development along their shorelines, and that may have undergone some impoundment or diversion in the past.

TABLE1: WILD AND SCENIC RIVER INVENTORY

River Name/Segment	Reason for Consideration (1)	BLM Length (mi.)	Other Length (mi.)	Free Flowing	ORV (2)	Eligibility	Preliminary Classification	BLM Acres	Percent of Corridor (%)
Bear Creek, Main Stem	C	2.1	5.5	yes	E,H	Eligible	Wild	568.7	27.8
Bear Trap Creek	C	2.4	0.8	yes	A	Noneligible		797.5	75.6
Big Creek	C	4.4	0.0	yes	E	Eligible	Wild	584.0	100.0
Big Finley Creek	C	3.1	1.9	yes	E,G	Eligible	Wild	1141.5	61.7
Big Flat Creek	C	11.0	0.0	yes	B,C,E,G	Eligible	Wild	948.8	99.9
Bridge Creek	C	2.7	4.0	yes	A	Noneligible		899.4	40.6
Buck Creek	C	1.7	0.0	yes	B,C	Eligible	Wild	282.5	100.0
Chaparral Creek	C	0.5	0.5	yes	A	Noneligible		168.7	54.1
Chemise Creek	C	1.3	0.0	yes	A	Noneligible		209.0	100.0
Cooskie Creek	C	0.9	4.5	yes	B,C,E,G	Eligible	Wild	322.9	16.9
Fourmile Creek	C	4.3	1.3	yes	B,C,E,G,H	Eligible	Wild	1399.0	77.2
Gitchell Creek	C	4.0	0.0	yes	B,C,E	Eligible	Wild	641.3	100.0
Honeydew Creek	C	14.8	4.0	yes	E,H	Eligible	Wild	4406.7	78.7
Horse Mountain Creek	C	4.1	0.0	yes	B,C,E	Eligible	Wild	598.9	100.0
Humboldt Creek	C	0.2	1.1	yes	F	Noneligible		51.5	14.6
Indian Creek	C	1.2	1.4	yes	F,G	Eligible	Wild	424.3	45.5
Kinsey Creek	C	1.6	0.0	yes	B,C	Eligible	Wild	230.5	100.0
Little Finley Creek	C	1.8	1.2	yes	E,F,G	Eligible	Wild	569.2	59.7
Mattole River	A,B	4.0	65.7	yes	B,C,E,F,G,H	Eligible	Scenic	406.3	5.8
McKee Creek	C	1.8	0.0	yes	A	Noneligible		209.1	100.0
Mill Creek	C	2.2	0.0	yes	E	Eligible	Scenic	609.9	98.2
Nooning Creek	C	1.8	0.0	yes	E	Eligible	Scenic	595.7	100.0
North Fork Bear Creek	C	4.4	1.8	yes	E,H	Eligible	Scenic	1771.0	71.3
Oat Creek	C	1.8	0.0	yes	B,C,E	Eligible	Wild	283.6	100.0
Randall Creek	C	2.0	0.0	yes	B,C,E,G	Eligible	Wild	321.6	100.0
Sea Lion Gulch	C	1.3	0.0	yes	B,C	Eligible	Wild	228.3	100.0
Shipman Creek	C	4.2	0.0	yes	B,C,E,G	Eligible	Wild	658.9	100.0
South Fork Bear Creek (A)	C	1.4	1.3	yes	E,F,G,H	Eligible	Recreational	492.9	50.7
South Fork Bear Creek (B)	C	7.6	0.5	yes	E,F,G,H	Eligible	Scenic	2408.9	93.9
Spanish Creek	C	2.4	0.0	yes	B,C,E,G	Eligible	Wild	323.1	100.0
Squaw Creek	C	7.5	21.5	yes	E	Eligible	Wild	2485.9	25.9
Stansberry Creek	C	2.4	0.0	yes	A	Noneligible		76.9	100.0
Telegraph Creek	C	0.7	3.2	yes	E	Eligible	Scenic	359.9	18.4
Whale Gulch	C	3.1	1.8	yes	B,C,F	Eligible	Scenic	476.0	64.0
Woods Creek	C	1.5	1.0	yes	E,H	Eligible	Wild	521.6	60.3

(1) A – National Rivers Inventory B – 1988 Outstanding Rivers List, American Rivers, Inc. C – Potential eligible rivers inventory, King Range planning team D – Other	(2) A – Non-existent B – Scenic C – Recreational D – Geological E – Fish and Wildlife F – Historical G – Cultural H – Other (including Ecological)
(3) Shoreline and adjacent lands within ¼ mile of the river segment not to exceed 320 acres per mile measured from the ordinary high water mark on both sides of the river.	

TABLE 2: ELIGIBLE KRNCA RIVER SEGMENTS

River Segment	Segment Description	Description of Outstanding Values
Bear Creek, Main Stem	From confluence with North Fork and South Fork in sec. 9, T4S, R1E to private land boundary in south ½ or sec. 11, T4S, R1E. Includes all perennial tributaries.	Contains spawning and rearing habitat for federally listed steelhead and Coho and Chinook salmon.
Bear Creek, North Fork	From its headwaters in secs. 6 and 7, T4S, R1E to confluence with main stem in sec. 9. Includes all perennial tributaries.	Contains spawning and rearing habitat for federally listed steelhead and Coho and Chinook salmon. Contains verified activity center for federally listed threatened northern spotted owl. Contains *Usnea longissima* (rare lichen) listed by CA Lichen Society as a Survey and Manage species.
Bear Creek, South Fork (segment A)	From its headwaters just east of Wailaki Campground (unsurveyed section) to Shelter Cove road.	Contains spawning and rearing habitat for federally listed steelhead and Coho and Chinook salmon. Contains many significant prehistoric and historic sites. Contains *Usnea longissima* (rare lichen) listed by CA Lichen Society as a Survey and Manage species.
Bear Creek, South Fork (segment B)	From Shelter Cove road to confluence with main stem in sec. 9, T4S, R1E. Includes all perennial tributaries.	Contains spawning and rearing habitat for federally listed steelhead and Coho and Chinook salmon. Contains verified activity center for federally listed threatened northern spotted owl. Contains many significant prehistoric and historic sites. Contains *Usnea longissima* (rare lichen) listed by CA Lichen Society as a Survey and Manage species.
Big Creek	From its headwaters in sec. 28, T3S, R1W to the Pacific Ocean. Includes all perennial tributaries.	Scenic class "A" rating. Part of unique coastal backcountry backpacking and camping area. Contains spawning and rearing habitat for federally listed threatened steelhead.
Big Finley Creek	From its headwaters in sec. 35, T4S, R1E to its junction with the Mattole River. Includes all perennial tributaries.	Contains spawning and rearing habitat for federally listed threatened steelhead. Contains verified activity center for federally listed threatened northern spotted owl. Contains several significant prehistoric sites.

River Segment	Segment Description	Description of Outstanding Values
Big Flat Creek	North Fork from its headwaters in sec. 35, T3S, R1W and Main fork from its headwaters in sec. 36, T3S, R1W to Pacific Ocean. Includes all perennial tributaries.	Scenic class "A" rating. Part of unique coastal backcountry backpacking and camping area. Popular hiking trail extends along 2 miles of creek. Contains spawning and rearing habitat for federally listed threatened steelhead. Contains several large, significant prehistoric sites near mouth of creek.
Buck Creek	From its headwaters in sec. 18, T4S, R1E to the Pacific Ocean.	Scenic class "A" rating. Part of unique coastal backcountry backpacking and camping area. Popular hiking trail near creek connects King Crest Trail with beach.
Cooskie Creek	From intersection with Chaparral Creek in sec. 9, T3S, R2W to the Pacific Ocean.	Scenic class "A" rating. Provides important upland trail access and camping. Contains spawning and rearing habitat for federally listed threatened steelhead. Contains significant prehistoric sites.
Fourmile Creek	From its headwaters in sec. 27, T2S, R2W to Pacific Ocean.	Scenery class "A" rating. Part of unique coastal backcountry backpacking and camping area. Contains spawning and rearing habitat for federally listed threatened steelhead. Contains significant prehistoric site.
Gitchell Creek	From its headwaters in sec. 17, T4S, R1E to the Pacific Ocean. Includes all perennial tributaries.	Scenery class "A" rating. Part of unique coastal backcountry backpacking and camping area. Contains spawning and rearing habitat for federally listed threatened steelhead.
Honeydew Creek	Includes West Fork, East Fork, and Main Fork from headwaters in sec. 26, T3S, R1W to junction with Mattole River. Includes all perennial tributaries.	Contains spawning and rearing habitat for federally listed threatened steelhead and Coho and Chinook salmon. Contains verified activity center for federally listed threatened northern spotted owl.
Horse Mountain Creek	From its headwaters in sec. 28, T4S, R1E to the Pacific Ocean. Includes all perennial tributaries.	Scenery Class "A" rating. Part of unique coastal backcountry backpacking and camping area. Contains spawning and rearing habitat for federally listed threatened steelhead. Contains verified activity center for federally listed threatened northern spotted owl.

River Segment	Segment Description	Description of Outstanding Values
Humboldt Creek	From its headwaters in sec. 9, T5S, R1E in Shelter Cove to the Pacific Ocean.	One pre-historic site of unknown value.
Indian Creek	From its headwaters in sec. 27, T2S, R2W to its junction with the Mattole River. Includes all perennial tributaries.	Contains significant prehistoric and historic sites.
Kinsey Creek	From its headwaters in sec. 20, T3S, R1W to the Pacific Ocean. Includes all perennial tributaries.	Scenery Class "A" rating. Part of unique coastal backcountry backpacking and camping area.
Little Finley Creek	From its headwaters in sec. 14, T4S, R1E to its junction with the Mattole River. Includes all perennial tributaries.	Contains spawning and rearing habitat for federally listed steelhead. Contains verified activity center for federally listed threatened northern spotted owl. Contains significant prehistoric and historic sites.
Mattole River	From private land boundary between sec. 8 and 17, T2S, R2W to the Pacific Ocean.	Major recreation site. Campground, hunting, and wildlife viewing area. Contains spawning and rearing habitat for federally listed threatened steelhead and Coho and Chinook salmon. Estuary contains endangered and rare plants including federally listed endangered *Layia carnosa*, and BLM sensitive (1B) *Astragalus pynchnostachys*, *Sidalcea malachroicles*, *Castilleja affinis littoralis*, and *Gilia millifoliata*.
Mill Creek	From its headwaters in sec. 21, T2S, R2W to its junction with the Mattole River. Includes all perennial tributaries.	Contains verified activity center for federally listed threatened northern spotted owl. Contains spawning and rearing habitat for federally listed threatened steelhead and Coho salmon. Only known Coho population along the lower Mattole watershed.
Nooning Creek	From its headwaters in sec. 1, T5S, R1E to its junction with the Mattole River. Includes all perennial tributaries.	Contains spawning and rearing habitat for federally listed threatened steelhead and Coho and Chinook salmon.
Oat Creek	From its headwaters in sec. 19, T3S, R1W to the Pacific Ocean. Includes all perennial tributaries.	Scenery class "A" rating. Part of unique coastal backcountry backpacking and camping area. Contains spawning and rearing habitat for federally listed threatened steelhead.

River Segment	Segment Description	Description of Outstanding Values
Randall Creek	From its headwaters in sec. 13, T3S, R2W to the Pacific Ocean.	Scenery class "A" rating. Part of unique coastal primitive backpacking and camping area. Contains spawning and rearing habitat for federally listed threatened steelhead.
Sea Lion Gulch	From its headwaters in sec. 32, T2S, R2W to the Pacific Ocean.	Scenery class "A" rating. Part of unique coastal primitive backpacking and camping area.
Shipman Creek	From its headwaters in sec. 1, T4S, R1W to the Pacific Ocean. Includes all perennial tributaries.	Scenery class "A" rating. Part of unique coastal primitive backpacking and camping area. Contains spawning and rearing habitat for federally listed threatened steelhead.
Spanish Creek	From its headwaters in sec. 18, T3S, R1W to the Pacific Ocean. Includes all perennial tributaries.	Scenery class "A" rating. Part of unique coastal primitive backpacking and camping area. Contains spawning and rearing habitat for federally listed threatened steelhead.
Squaw Creek	From its headwaters in sec. 21, T3S, R1W to private land boundary in the NW ¼ of section 8, T3S, R1W. Includes all perennial tributaries within this segment (not counting tributaries west of Little Moorehead Ridge.	Contains verified activity center for federally listed threatened northern spotted owl. Contains spawning and rearing habitat for federally listed threatened steelhead and Chinook salmon.
Telegraph Creek	From its headwaters in sec. 11, T5S, R1E to the Pacific Ocean. Includes all perennial tributaries.	Contains spawning and rearing habitat for the federally listed threatened steelhead.
Whale Gulch	From its headwaters just north of the Humboldt Co./Mendocino Co. line (unsurveyed area) to the Pacific Ocean. Includes all perennial tributaries.	Scenery class "A" rating. Part of unique coastal primitive backpacking and camping area.
Woods Creek	From its headwaters in sec. 15, T3S, R1W to its confluence with the Mattole River.	Contains verified activity center for federally listed threatened northern spotted owl. Contains *Usnea longissima* (rare lichen) listed by CA Lichen Society as a Survey and Manage Species.

SUITABILITY OF KING RANGE STREAMS

Twenty-eight river segments displayed in Table 1 were found to be eligible for inclusion into the NWSRS. Section 4(a) of the Wild and Scenic River Act mandates that all rivers found eligible as potential additions to the NWSRS be studied as to their suitability for such a designation. The purpose of this study is to provide information upon which the President of the United States can base his recommendation and Congress can make a decision. The study report describes the characteristics that do or do not make the stream segment a worthy addition to the system, the current status of land ownership and use in the area, the reasonably foreseeable potential uses of the land and water which would be enhanced, foreclosed, or curtailed if the area were included in the system, and several other factors. The suitability study is designed to answer these questions:

1. Should the river's free-flowing character, water quality, and ORVs be protected, or are one or more other uses important enough to warrant doing otherwise?
2. Will the river's free-flowing character, water quality, and ORVs be protected through designation? Is it the best method for protecting the river corridor? (In answering these questions, the benefits and impacts of wild and scenic river designation must be evaluated, and alternative protection methods considered.)
3. Is there a demonstrated commitment to protect the river by any nonfederal entities that may be partially responsible for implementing protective management?

Pursuant to Sections 4(a) and 5(c) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, the following factors were considered and evaluated as a basis for the suitability determination for each river:

1. Characteristics that do or do not make the area a worthy addition to the NWSRS.
2. The current status of land ownership, minerals (surface and subsurface), and use in the area, including the amount of private land involved and associated or incompatible uses.
3. The reasonably foreseeable potential uses of the land and water that would be enhanced, foreclosed, or curtailed if the area were included in the NWSRS. Historical or existing rights which could be adversely affected.
4. The federal agency that will administer the area should it be added to the NWSRS.
5. The estimated cost to the United States of acquiring necessary lands and interests in lands and of administering the area should it be added to the NWSRS.
6. A determination of the degree to which the state or its political subdivisions might participate in the preservation and administration of the river should it be proposed for inclusion in the NWSRS.
7. An evaluation of the adequacy of local zoning and other land use controls in protecting the river's ORVs by preventing incompatible development.
8. Federal, public, state, local, or other interests in designation or non-designation of the river, including the extent to which the administration of the river, including the cost thereof, may be shared by state, local, or other agencies and individuals. Support or opposition to the designation.
9. The consistency of designation with other agency plans, programs, or policies and in meeting regional objectives.
10. The contribution to river system or basin integrity.

11. The ability of BLM to manage the river segments under designation, or ability to protect the river area other than Wild and Scenic designation.
12. The potential for water resources development.

1. Characteristics that Do or Do Not Make the River Segments Worthy Additions to the NWSRS

The stream segments in the KRNCA are located within the California Coast Range Physiographic Province. This province was used as a basis to determine if the study segments possess characteristics of at least regional significance that would make them worthy additions to the NWSRS. The Coast Range Physiographic Province contains the highest rainfall and density of streams in California. Also, many of these streams provide habitat for anadromous fisheries. There are currently five designated Wild and Scenic Rivers within the province. They include portions of the Smith River, Klamath River, Van Duzen River, the Main Stem and Middle Fork of the Eel River, and the entire South Fork Eel River. This amounts to a total of approximately 150 miles of designated Wild and Scenic River segments in the region. Many of the eligible river segments within the KRNCA have anadromous fisheries and outstandingly remarkable scenic and recreational values. However, when considered in the context of other streams in the region, which also contain these same values to varying levels, the BLM planning team found that some river segments provided average or low quality values in this regional context and therefore were not considered to be worthy additions to the system.

Eight river segments on seven streams in the KRNCA possess characteristics that make them worthy additions to the NWSRS. These include the Mattole River, Mill Creek, Honeydew Creek, South Fork Bear Creek (Segments A and B), Big Flat Creek, Big Creek, and Gitchell Creek, totaling 40.5 miles of river corridor on BLM public lands. These eight segments are high quality representatives of the outstandingly remarkable values when considered in the regional context.

Mattole River

The Mattole River is listed in the National Rivers Inventory and the 1988 Outstanding Rivers List published by American Rivers, Inc. The Mattole River estuary and associated beach is a focal point for recreation visitors to the Lost Coast Region and is one of the most popular sites in the KRNCA. The river carves a wide opening in the coastal mountains and offers a magnificent setting for a variety of recreational opportunities including camping, wildlife viewing and beach access. Visitors explore the estuary and beach and view the many bird species who seek refuge in the area's sheltered waters. Excellent spawning and rearing habitat exists for federally listed threatened steelhead and Coho and Chinook salmon. The estuary provides critical habitat for smolting salmon as they transition from the river to a salt water environment. The adjoining dune system contains the federally listed endangered *Layia carnosa* and other BLM sensitive rare plant species.

This significant fishery also historically attracted native Americans to the estuary, and the area contains numerous cultural sites and has been designated as an Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) to protect these values. The original human occupants of the Mattole River watershed were the Mattole and the Sinkyone. The Mattole occupied the lower watershed, including the estuary area, and the Sinkyone occupied the upper watershed. The first known Europeans to explore the area arrived in 1854, and friction between these new settlers and the native people was evident by 1858. In the span of eleven

years, the native cultures that occupied the area for hundreds or thousands of years were completely decimated. Archaeological sites are the only remaining evidence of this culture, making them especially significant.

Mill Creek

Much of the Mill Creek watershed was acquired by BLM in 1997 through a land exchange. The stream corridor contains a verified activity center for federally listed threatened northern spotted owl. Mill Creek is also an important cold water tributary to the Mattole River that provides critical spawning and rearing habitat for federally listed threatened steelhead and Coho salmon. The creek hosts the only known Coho population along the lower Mattole watershed. Much of the western part of the watershed contains a significant remnant stand of old-growth Douglas fir known locally as the "Mill Creek Forest."

Honeydew Creek

Honeydew Creek is the fourth largest tributary to the Mattole River. The Northwest Forest Plan (NWFP) identifies the watershed as a part of the King Range Late-Successional Reserve and as a Tier-1 Key Watershed (USDA, USDI 1994). Much of the original old-growth forest in the Mattole watershed was heavily logged with the advent of tractor logging after World War II. In Honeydew Creek, however, the extreme topography and unstable slopes prevented logging in much of the upper watershed. Therefore, the upper watershed is one of the few major reaches of stream within the Mattole that has been relatively unaltered by humans. Public lands within the watershed are 93% forested. Most late successional forest stands occur near stream channels; Honeydew Creek contains the second largest acreage of this forest in the Mattole watershed (MRC 1989). Verified activity centers for the federally listed threatened northern spotted owl exist within the quarter-mile corridor of Honeydew Creek. The northern spotted owl requires habitat features provided by late-seral or old-growth forests, such as closed canopy, multiple-layer, open understory, coolness, high-humidity, and structural complexity, which are present in the Honeydew Creek watershed.

Honeydew Creek also contains anadromous fisheries, including the federally listed threatened steelhead and Coho and Chinook salmon. With regard to anadromous fish habitats, Honeydew Creek may be the most intact watershed in the Mattole River basin. The lower four miles of the main stem is rather unique in the mid-Mattole basin, contained in a broad U-shaped alluvial valley with a gradient of 2% or less. Almost all other stream channels in the watershed have a gradient of 5-15% or greater. Recent research from the Oregon Cascades and Oregon Coast Range shows that flatter reaches of streams, such as the lower main stem, tend to be the most productive areas for fish and other aquatic organisms (MRC 1995).

The river corridor has other outstandingly remarkable ecological values associated with Survey and Manage Species from the NWFP Record of Decision (ROD). Seven ROD –listed species were identified in the Honeydew Creek corridor that require protection "until they can be thoroughly surveyed and site-specific measures prescribed," including a rare truffle, *Choriomyces venosus* (NWFP ROD 1997).

South Fork Bear Creek

The South Fork of Bear Creek is the largest watershed on the eastern slope of the King Range. The creek originates in the Chemise Mountain area, and flows northward between Paradise Ridge and the

King Crest. For the purpose of the evaluation, South Fork Bear Creek was divided into Segments A and B, separated by Shelter Cove Road, with Segment A to the south (upstream) and Segment B to the north (downstream). Segment A contains outstandingly remarkable cultural values while Segment B represents a majority of the spawning and/or nesting habitat for sensitive fish and wildlife species. Furthermore, Segment A has trails connecting from Nadelos and Wailaki campgrounds and Hidden Valley trailhead, which offer outstanding scenic, recreational, and interpretive opportunities on the east slope of the King Range.

While most of the South Fork of Bear Creek runs through very steep and narrow drainages, the terrain on the upper South Fork (Segment A) is relatively gentle, with some flood plain development, openings in the forest canopy, and large wet meadows in the Hidden Valley area. It contains significant cultural values including historic pioneer wagon trails and local Native American seasonal harvesting grounds, considered eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places. The original inhabitants in this watershed belonged to the Sinkyone tribe, the southernmost people to share the northwest salmon culture. Archaeologists have identified several cultural sites along the upper reaches of South Fork Bear Creek, from the headwaters area north to the vicinity near present-day Shelter Cove Road. These archaeological sites indicate long periods of continuous use.

South Fork Bear Creek, especially Segment B, provides excellent spawning and rearing habitat for the federally listed threatened steelhead and Coho and Chinook salmon. Chinook salmon spawn during the late fall, while coho salmon and steelhead spawn during the winter. Much of the watershed was logged in the mid-twentieth century, but restoration efforts and natural recovery over the last several decades have greatly improved fishery habitat. Bear Creek is the third largest tributary to the Mattole River and contributes significant flows to the main river during the late summer when water volume from the upper Mattole reaches a seasonal low. During the fall of 2002, Bear Creek continued to flow even after the main stem of the upper Mattole River ran dry.

Big Flat Creek

Big Flat Creek is located on the western slope of the King Range approximately 8.5 miles north of Shelter Cove. The entire watershed is within the King Range Wilderness Study Area (WSA). Big Flat Creek lies directly beneath the sentinel of 4,087 foot King Peak, carving its way through a deep boulder strewn canyon before flowing across a broad alluvial plain at the coast. The creek corridor and mouth make up the largest relatively flat area in the King Range backcountry and are a focal point for recreation visitors to the Lost Coast, who often camp at the creek mouth to enjoy the spectacular combination of creek, ocean, and mountains. Alluvial deposits from the creek also created a "point break" just offshore, making Big Flat a prominent surfing destination.

Rattlesnake Ridge Trail traverses the canyon of Big Flat Creek as it climbs from Big Flat to the King Crest. The forested fern-lined canyon trail offers a welcome contrast to the windswept Lost Coast Trail. It is the only trail in the King Range backcountry offering visitors an opportunity to explore a creek corridor.

Big Flat Creek contains anadromous fisheries, consisting primarily of federally listed threatened steelhead Trout. Preliminary information suggests that Big Flat Creek and other West Slope creeks of the King Range may support a subspecies of steelhead that have adapted to the area's difficult habitat conditions,

i.e., more tolerant of shallow pools and high water temperatures. A biological assessment completed in 2000 showed that estimates of juvenile steelhead trout for Big Flat Creek and Big Creek (described below) were greater than all other west slope streams included in the study (Engle and Duffy 2000).

Big Creek

Big Creek is also located on the western slope of the King Range, approximately 11.5 miles north of Shelter Cove. In addition to high juvenile steelhead populations (see above), Big Creek has outstandingly remarkable scenic and recreational values and a popular campsite for backpackers along the Lost Coast Trail. Big Creek covers the second largest drainage area on the KRNCA west slope, and a large number of natural landslides have created a wide gravel channel in the lower watershed. Therefore, the creek corridor is easy to explore and offers hikers dramatic vistas of the King Crest, rising over 3,000 feet at the head of the canyon.

Gitchell Creek

Gitchell Creek is also located on the west slope, approximately 3.5 miles north of Shelter Cove. Gitchell Creek supports a steelhead fishery in its highly scenic corridor, with alternating deep pools and boulder strewn riffles bordered by dense alder stands. The mouth of the creek is a popular overnight camping destination, and the creek corridor offers off-trail hiking and exploring opportunities. Gitchell Creek contains no individual stand-out value when compared to other streams along the Lost Coast, but instead combines a number of outstandingly remarkable values to make it an exemplary example of west slope streams.

Additional River Segments

As illustrated in Table 1, twenty other river segments in the KRNCA meet minimum eligibility criteria for inclusion in the NWSRS. The streams were grouped by location (east vs. west slope) for descriptive purposes.

Most west slope streams have anadromous fisheries (except Buck Creek, Kinsey Creek, Whale Gulch, and Sea Lion Gulch). Based on their location on the dramatic coastal slope of the King Range, all have outstandingly remarkable scenic and recreational values. They have "Class A" scenery ratings and most are popular camping destinations along the Lost Coast Trail. In addition to these values, Cooskie Creek, Fourmile Creek, Randall Creek, Shipman Creek, Whale Gulch Creek, and Spanish Creek contain known prehistoric cultural sites. Finally, Horse Mountain Creek includes a verified activity center for the federally listed northern spotted owl. Although these are significant values that meet eligibility criteria, the study team has determined that the values are not at a level that would make these segments worthy additions to the NWSRS when viewed in the context of the KRNCA as a whole, or within the California Coastal Range Physiographic Province.

On the east slope of the King Range, Big and Little Finley creeks, the North Fork and main stem of Bear Creek, Nooning Creek, Squaw Creek, and Woods Creek were noted for the presence of anadromous fisheries. Indian Creek and Little Finley Creek also have known stream-related historical sites. Most of these watersheds have been substantially modified through past logging activities and the associated construction of roads, landings, and skid trails. The resulting landscapes would not broaden the

representation of key ecosystems within the system. Although the river segments found suitable have also been impacted from past logging, the impacts are not as extensive as has occurred in these other watersheds.

In summary, although these values meet the minimum eligibility criteria, when viewed in the context of the California Coastal Range Physiographic Province, the study team determined that these river segments were not of a level of quality to make them worthy additions to the NWSRS.

2. Status of Land Ownership and Current Use

Mattole River

Only 5.2% of the Mattole River crosses public land, with most of the remainder in private ownership. A small portion of the Mattole River passing through BLM land near the King Range Administrative Site was evaluated for Wild and Scenic River designation in the Arcata Resource Management Plan (1989). Therefore, evaluation for the King Range Wild and Scenic River suitability study focuses on the remaining public land portion, known as the Mattole River mouth and estuary. The length of the Mattole River mouth and estuary study segment is approximately 4.0 miles. On this segment, 84% of the river is in BLM ownership and 16% is owned by the California State Lands Commission, yet the entire segment is managed by BLM. The State Lands Commission has granted BLM the authority to administer "all that portion of the State-owned bed of the Mattole River and the Mattole River Estuary" by Permit No. PRC 5633.9. A local rancher maintains a road through BLM lands and a low-water crossing to access his private property on the north side of the estuary. This rancher also leases public lands within the corridor for grazing. These uses do not require improvements that would conflict with Wild and Scenic River Designation. In 1981, the BLM King Range Extension Plan designated the Mattole River mouth and estuary an Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) for the protection of the estuary, archaeological sites and native sand dune ecosystems on Mattole Beach. This ACEC designation complements Wild and Scenic River designation.

The area just south of the estuary is one of the most popular recreation sites in the KRNCA, serving as a coastal/estuary access point, campground, and trailhead. This use is compatible with designation.

Mill Creek

Much of the Mill Creek watershed, including the entire length of the study segment, was purchased by the BLM in 1997. Protection of this cold water tributary was a primary purpose for acquisition of the Mill Creek parcel and was supported by the State of California and surrounding property owners. The watershed is proposed for ACEC designation in this Plan. Public use is low for dispersed day-use recreation activities. All present and anticipated uses are compatible with designation.

Honeydew Creek

Honeydew Creek drains the eastern slope of King Peak and exits the KRNCA before crossing Wilder Ridge Road. It then re-enters BLM public land for a short segment near the Honeydew Creek Campground. Approximately 82.5% of the river segment under evaluation is on BLM public land. The remaining 2.5 miles crosses private ranch lands with a couple of scattered residences. Minor use of the creek for livestock watering occurs on private lands on the lower main stem and East Fork. Current

grazing is limited to small-scale operations on individual ownerships; there are no active grazing permits on public lands in the watershed. One campground located on the lower main stem of Honeydew Creek receives moderate use for camping, picnicking, and swimming. No anticipated public or private land uses within the corridor would conflict with Wild and Scenic River designation.

Other East Slope Creeks

All east slope streams determined to be eligible for Wild and Scenic River designation have river segments crossing private lands except Nooning Creek. Those located 60% or more on BLM public land include Big Finley Creek, Woods Creek, Whale Gulch, and North Fork Bear Creek. Those located less than 60% on BLM public land are Little Finley Creek, Indian Creek, Squaw Creek, and Bear Creek's main stem. Private lands in the creek corridors are used for ranching and rural low-density residential use. No anticipated uses on private or public lands would conflict with Wild and Scenic River designation.

Bear Creek

The South Fork of Bear Creek is located mostly within the KRNCA boundary, although 49% (1.3 miles) of Segment A and 18% (1.7 miles) of Segment B pass through private property. Two existing power line rights-of-way cross BLM lands along Shelter Cove Road and Chemise Mountain Road. Also, Chemise Mountain Road parallels Segment A, and provides access to two BLM campgrounds (Wailaki and Nadelos). This combination of development has resulted in a different classification (Recreational) for Segment A, but is not incompatible with designation. There are no current uses on private lands in the corridor that are incompatible with Wild and Scenic River designation for both segments.

Other West Slope Creeks

Big Creek, Big Flat Creek, Buck Creek, Horse Mountain Creek, Kinsey Creek, Oat Creek, Randall Creek, Sea Lion Gulch, Spanish Creek, and Gitchell Creek are almost completely under public ownership, with the exception of small private parcels in the corridor at Big Flat Creek and Fourmile Creek. Currently, all of these river segments are protected under the BLM's Interim Management Policy for Lands under Wilderness Review, pending a final decision by Congress regarding Wilderness designation. No proposed land uses would conflict with Wild and Scenic River management.

Sixty-eight percent of Fourmile Creek is located on BLM public land. The remainder of the watershed is on lands used for low density residential use or ranching. This use would be compatible with designation.

Less than 14% of Humboldt Creek and 17% of Telegraph Creek are located on public lands. The remainders of these corridors are in the Shelter Cove Subdivision, zoned for residential development. BLM has authorized one right-of-way for a water facility and pipeline in the Telegraph Creek corridor for Shelter Cove. The community uses the creek as its main water supply. In the long term, a large number of residences could be constructed in these watersheds. This level of development would likely be incompatible with Wild and Scenic River designation. In addition, only 16% of Cooskie Creek is located on public land. BLM Manual 8351.33A(2) entitled "Wild and Scenic Rivers – Policy and Program Direction for Identification, Evaluation and Management" states: "In situations where there is limited public land (shoreline and adjacent land) administered by the BLM within an identified river study area, it

may be difficult to ensure those identified outstandingly remarkable values could be properly maintained and afforded adequate management protection over time. Accordingly, for those situations where the BLM is unable to protect or maintain any identified outstandingly remarkable values, or through other mechanisms (existing or potential), river segments may be determined suitable only if the entity with land use planning responsibility supports the finding and commits to assisting the BLM in protecting the identified river values. An alternative method to consider these segments is for state, local governments or private citizens to initiate efforts under section 2(a)(ii), or a joint study under section 5C of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act." Humboldt County has land use planning responsibility for the private lands on these segments. The BLM has not approached the county regarding their support for Wild and Scenic River designation of these three segments, since the study team determined that they are not worthy additions to the system.

3. Potential Uses of the Land to be Enhanced or Curtailed by Designation/ Historical or Existing Rights That Could Be Adversely Affected, including Water Resources Projects

Public lands in the King Range are either Administratively Withdrawn or designated as a Late-Successional Reserve (LSR) in the Northwest Forest Plan ROD (1994). This land allocation conveys a specific set of stipulations regarding management and protection of old-growth forest dependent wildlife and fishery habitats. Also, all of the corridors include Riparian Reserve designations under this same plan. All west slope streams (except Telegraph and Humboldt Creek), and Honeydew Creek are located in the King Range WSA, which is being managed to protect wilderness character pending consideration for wilderness designation by Congress. All of these management designations would be enhanced by Wild and Scenic River designation.

Mattole River

The Mattole River mouth and estuary is a popular recreation site for local residents and visitors to the King Range. The Mattole River Campground is BLM's only developed campsite on the KRNCA coastline and is located within the ¼ mile river corridor under evaluation. BLM has proposed improving this campground in the future to protect resource values and enhance the quality of the visitor experience. This development will be modest and would complement Wild and Scenic River designation by enhancing opportunities for visitors to enjoy the river corridor.

Locally, the gravel bar surrounding the estuary is treated as a commons and is used by local residents as a source for personal-use gravel or sand, firewood cutting, and target practice. In recent years, the gravel bar has also become a gathering place for overflow campers from the developed campground. This RMP includes goals to manage uses in the estuary to protect the area's significant ecological values, including limiting vehicle use to designated corridors. Wild and Scenic River designation would be compatible with these management goals.

Fishing was historically a major use of the estuary; fishermen came to the area annually during salmon runs to fish at the first riffles. However, use declined with the corresponding decline in populations of salmon. In 1991 the State Fish and Game Commission closed the river to fish harvesting to protect salmonids, in response to requests from the Mattole Watershed Alliance (NCRWQCB 2002). Currently,

catch-and-release fishing for steelhead trout is still allowed (as of 2003) in the upstream portion of the study segment, and drift-boat fishermen use the gravel bar as a takeout point. Fishing use is carefully managed by the California Department of Fish and Game and the National Marine Fishery Service to protect remaining runs of salmonids.

The Mattole Salmon Group and Mattole Restoration Council have completed projects to anchor root-wads and driftwood logs in the estuary in an effort to increase habitat for salmonids. Placement of further habitat improvement structures in the river would have to undergo an evaluation to ensure that they do not negatively impact the free-flowing character of the river (Section 7). However, these projects would probably be minimally affected by designation since their intent is to enhance the outstandingly remarkable fishery values.

The beneficial uses and water quality objectives for the Mattole River are contained in the *Water Quality Control Plan for the North Coast Region* (Basin Plan) as amended in 1996 (NCRWQCB). These beneficial uses include:

1. Municipal and Domestic Supply (MUN)
2. Agricultural Supply (AGR)
3. Industrial Service Supply (IND)
4. Water Contact Recreation (REC-1)
5. Non-Contact Water Recreation (REC-2)
6. Commercial or Sport Fishing (COMM)
7. Cold Freshwater Habitat (COLD)
8. Estuarine Habitat (EST)
9. Wildlife Habitat (WILD)
10. Migration of Aquatic Organisms (MIGR)
11. Spawning, Reproduction, and/or Early Development (SPWN)

In addition, the beneficial use of water related to rare, threatened, or endangered species (RARE), has been proposed for this basin, because federally-listed Coho and Chinook salmon and steelhead trout are found in the watershed (NCRWQCB 2001a). Also, aquaculture (AQUA) in the watershed is listed in the Basin Plan (NCRWQCB 1996) as a potential beneficial use.

There is a great deal of local concern over in-stream flows and potential water development proposals to export river water out of the Mattole basin. Part of this concern was fueled by a private developer's proposal to pump water from North Coast rivers into large polymer bags and haul them by barge to southern California. No specific proposal was made for such an operation in the Mattole watershed. During recent years, the upper river has dried up completely during the late summer, threatening survival of salmon and steelhead fry. Local restoration groups are encouraging water users to store water for dry season use and not draw upon the limited river flows. Wild and Scenic River designation would not impact existing water rights on the Mattole or other streams in the KRNCA. However, designation would establish a federal water right for the designated segments which could limit future proposals to remove water from the river, especially if these uses impacted outstandingly remarkable values such as salmonid populations.

Bear Creek

Foreseeable uses on public lands in the Bear Creek watershed would not be impacted by designation. Campgrounds in the corridor have all been recently reconstructed, with future plans limited to development of small trailhead parking areas and non-motorized trails. Designation would establish a federal reserve water right, which would not affect existing private land uses/water rights but could affect future stream diversions, especially during the low-flow summer period. However, protection of flow levels would be required under the Endangered Species Act, with or without Wild and Scenic River Designation.

Mill Creek

Mill Creek was evaluated for potential uses of the land as a requirement for the acquisition agreement in 1997. Identified uses within the Mill Creek corridor include overnight camping and multiple use trails for day use and/or accessing the remainder of the King Range backcountry. None of these uses will be impacted or curtailed by designation, and recreational opportunities could be enhanced.

Honeydew Creek

Honeydew Creek includes one recreational development (Honeydew Creek Campground). This site would not be affected by Wild and Scenic River designation.

All other east slope streams with river segments crossing private lands have similar potential uses for rural residential and ranching purposes that would not be curtailed by Wild and Scenic River designation.

West Slope Creeks

Eligible streams on the west slope, including Fourmile Creek, Sea Lion Gulch, Big Creek, Big Flat Creek, Whale Gulch, Gitchell Creek, and Shipman Creek, have similar potential uses due to their location inside the King Range WSA that would be enhanced by Wild and Scenic River designation. Primarily, these river segments' potential uses are limited to recreational purposes for backcountry visitors, but may include scientific studies for educational purposes and/or recreation research, which would be enhanced by Wild and Scenic River designation.

Humboldt Creek and Telegraph Creek are both located in the Shelter Cove subdivision. Only a small percentage of land along both of these segments is administered by the BLM. Shelter Cove is expected to continue growing at a moderate rate, and over the long-term a large number of residences will likely be developed within these corridors. This development could be curtailed by designation.

Diversion of additional water from any of the streams during the summer low-flow period could impact outstandingly remarkable values. Wild and Scenic River designation would not impact current water rights, but could affect future diversions from the streams.

Alterations to existing water withdrawal facilities may be approved under Section 7 of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, as long as there is no direct adverse effect to the values for which the river was designated.

4. Federal Agency that will Administer KRNCA Wild and Scenic River Segments

The U.S. Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management (BLM) would administer all river segments under evaluation should they be included in the NWSRS.

5. Estimated Cost of Acquisition and Administration

There would be no need to acquire additional lands for most KRNCA river segments to be included in the National Wild and Scenic River System. The exception would be Telegraph and Humboldt Creeks; a large number of residential lots would need to be acquired (or placed under conservation easements) in these stream corridors to maintain their character. There would also be a modest cost associated with developing management plan(s) for all designated streams, and coordinating with adjacent private landowners to ensure that their activities would not cause offsite (downstream or downslope) impacts that could potentially affect river values.

6. State or local political subdivision participation in river preservation and management

During the initial scooping period for this Plan, no government agencies commented or expressed interest specifically in wild and scenic river designation. However, numerous state and federal agencies have committed funding and effort to protecting river related values on the study segments. For example, the California Coastal Conservancy and Wildlife Conservation Board have funded land acquisitions to protect Mill Creek and the Mattole River. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG), and BLM have existing agreements to support salmon recovery in the Mattole River. The North Coast Regional Water Board has prepared a Technical Support Document (TSD) that addresses sources of sediment and temperature impairments, loading capacities, and load allocations necessary to restore sediment and temperature conditions supportive of beneficial uses related to the cold water fishery in the Mattole River watershed. Humboldt County has cooperated with the BLM in storm-proofing county roads to reduce sedimentation of area streams. In summary, there is already a strong established level of cooperation among federal, state, and local agencies to restore and protect streams in the region.

7. Local Zoning and Land Use Planning Adequacy in protecting the river values

Most portions of the study segments are located on federal lands administered by the BLM and local zoning would not apply. Where the segments cross private lands, most stretches are zoned for grazing/timber management with low density residential use. These uses at the scales foreseen within the study segments would be compatible with Wild and Scenic River designation. The private lands encompassing most of the Telegraph Creek and Humboldt Creek segments are zoned for residential development. As the community of Shelter Cove grows, a large percentage of the land base in these watersheds could be developed for residences at a high density level. Wild and Scenic River designation would not be compatible with this development.

8. Federal, public, state, local or other interests in designation/non-designation of the river. Support or Opposition to the Designation.

A description of other federal, state, and local agency involvement and interest in river management is contained under Item 6 above. Residents of the Mattole Valley and southern Humboldt County have a long history of active interest in river conservation (House 1999). During the scoping period for this plan, several local residents expressed concerns specific to the Mattole River estuary and the potential impacts of any projects to export water from the area. These comments were in response to proposals by a private water developer to construct a system to export water from the mouths of north coast rivers to Southern California. Wild and Scenic River designation was supported as one avenue to stop this potential development. No other comments specific to Wild and Scenic River designation were received during the scoping period. However, many comments were received regarding protection of river related values including water quality/quantity, anadromous fisheries, and scenic values.

A number of grass roots organizations in the region directly support watershed management and restoration efforts that protect and enhance the outstandingly remarkable values of many of the study segments. The Mill Creek Watershed Conservancy is a consortium of local residents from Petrolia and the surrounding region that assisted BLM in acquiring the Mill Creek parcel in 1997, and continues to lead efforts to restore the health of the watershed. The Mattole Salmon Group has also done considerable salmonid enhancement and watershed rehabilitation work in the Mattole Watershed. The group initiated a Chinook salmon hatchbox program in 1982, and installed a Coho hatchbox facility in 1987 on the South Fork of Bear Creek. The Mattole Restoration Council oversees watershed restoration projects on public and private lands throughout the Mattole Valley. Other organizations involved with watershed management include Sanctuary Forest and the Middle Mattole Conservancy. In summary, there is exceptionally strong local support in the area for river conservation.

9. The consistency of designation with other agency plans, programs or policies and in meeting regional objectives.

Wild and Scenic River designation for most of the study segments would be consistent with other agency plans and programs for the region. All of the study segments except Telegraph and Humboldt Creek flow through public lands designated as a Late Successional Reserve or administratively withdrawn under the Northwest Forest Plan. The segments are also classified as Riparian Reserves under the Aquatic Conservation Strategy of this regional plan for public lands in the Pacific Northwest. These designations are intended to conserve in-tact forest and aquatic ecosystems and are compatible with Wild and Scenic River designation. Wild and Scenic designation of Humboldt and Telegraph Creek would not be compatible with local zoning or land use management plans.

10. Contribution to River System or Basin Integrity

The Mattole River estuary has a seasonal cycle, open to the ocean from fall to late spring, and closed by a sand berm that develops during the summer and early fall. When the river mouth is closed by the berm, a small lagoon of approximately seven acres is formed. This variable wetland is rich in wildlife, and the lagoon serves a critical function in the life cycle of the king salmon. The limits to anadromous fisheries populations are not clearly understood, but are related to water temperature, diet, and predation, which are, in turn, related to the availability of riparian habitat. In gross terms, all ecological problems in the

estuary are related to its function as an endpoint of in-river storage of sediment. Any management action that reduces the input of sediment into the river system will benefit the Mattole River estuary and lagoon. Furthermore, because native Mattole king salmon populations are diminished to a point where their viability remains a question, Wild and Scenic River designation of the river segment under evaluation will contribute significantly to the integrity of the Mattole River system as a whole.

Bear Creek is a 13,820 acre tributary to the Mattole River. Along with adjacent Honeydew Creek, Bear Creek is comprised of predominately public land in the Mattole basin. These are also the least impacted (relative to other sub-basins in the Mattole watersheds) by historic and on-going land use practices. Within the Mattole basin they are the tributaries best suited as functional refugia for anadromous fisheries, as well as for high restoration potential. The restoration impetus of Honeydew Creek and Bear Creek in particular contributes to the current focus on ecosystem management through watershed restoration. It provides a foothold for public/private cooperation and a starting point from which to assess and prioritize watershed conditions, and to enhance the integrity of both river systems and the entire Mattole River basin.

The upper two-thirds of the Honeydew Creek watershed have been under public management since 1970. It has been managed by BLM as part of Zone 7 of the KRNCA with the primary use of wildlife habitat conservation. The second largest stand of old-growth forest in the entire Mattole River basin protects the headwaters of Honeydew Creek. Because of these relatively undisturbed headwaters areas, overall habitat conditions are recovering slightly quicker than other Mattole watersheds. Considering the size of the basin, relatively few active sources of sedimentation have been identified (MRC 1989). In summary, Honeydew Creek is a major component of the Mattole watershed and contributes greatly to its integrity.

Part of the Mill Creek watershed was logged prior to 1975, with the exception of 210 acres which now constitute the largest grove of old-growth habitat within the lower Mattole watershed (MRC 1989). This grove, located on the west side of a middle reach of the creek, accounts for the relative stability of the lower reaches of the creek, which is the coldest and cleanest tributary in the lower river, contributing significantly to the river environment and integrity.

Other study segments in the Mattole watershed contribute in varying degrees to the integrity of the watershed, but not at a level of significance comparable to the above described segments.

All of the west slope streams are individual distinct watersheds flowing directly into the Pacific. Therefore they are complete systems in and of themselves and do not contribute to the integrity of any larger river system.

11. Management or Protection other than Wild and Scenic River Designation

In the case of river segments that are found not suitable for designation, BLM will continue to manage these streams as integral ecosystem components of the King Range. Management objectives in the King Range RMP call for continued emphasis on restoration of anadromous fisheries, riparian ecosystems, late successional forests and other components of healthy watersheds in Mattole River tributaries. West slope streams (with the exception of Telegraph and Humboldt Creeks) are all located in the King Range WSA.

The preferred alternative for this plan also calls for the BLM to file on water rights to protect the aquatic habitat of KRNCA streams. Also, most water resource projects would be incompatible with the King Range Act, Northwest Forest Plan, and the BLM's Interim Management Policy for Lands under Wilderness Review. For example, hydropower facilities, dredging, diversion and channelization, irrigation, and flood control measures are inconsistent with the vision of the King Range, and would therefore not be permitted to the extent of BLM's authority.

ANALYSIS OF ALTERNATIVES

In accordance with NEPA and the Wild and Scenic River Act of 1968, BLM used an interdisciplinary planning team to draft an array of alternatives for Wild and Scenic Rivers. These alternatives ranged from proposing that none of the eligible river segments be found suitable and recommended for designation under Alternative A, eight river segments found suitable and recommended for designation under Alternative B, fifteen river segments found suitable and recommended for designation under Alternative C, and all twenty-eight eligible river segments to be found suitable and recommended for designation under Alternative D (Preferred). Specifically:

- Alternative A (No Action): No segments recommended
- Alternative B: Big Creek, Big Flat Creek, Gitchell Creek, South Fork Bear Creek (Segments A and B), Honeydew Creek, Mill Creek, and Mattole Estuary recommended.
- Alternative C: Same as B with the addition of Shipman Creek, Buck Creek, Randall Creek, Horse Mountain Creek, Kinsey Creek, Oat Creek, and Spanish Creek.
- Alternative D (Preferred Alternative): All study segments recommended.

The impacts of these alternatives are analyzed in Chapter IV of the plan.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the following river segments, as defined in Table 2, be designated as components to the NWSRS: Mattole River Estuary, Mill Creek, Honeydew Creek, Segments A and B of the South Fork of Bear Creek, Big Creek, Big Flat Creek, , and Gitchell Creek. The remaining study segments were found to be unsuitable.

PROTECTIVE MANAGEMENT

All river segments found to be eligible for inclusion in the NWSRS are placed under protective management by the BLM. Subject to valid existing rights, the BLM is required to protect the free-flowing characteristics and outstandingly remarkable values in the stream corridors. The BLM must also protect the corridor from modifications that would impact the tentative river classification (i.e., change the classification potential from Wild to Scenic, or from Scenic to Recreational). These management restrictions apply only to public lands. Once suitability is determined and the Record of Decision (ROD) for the RMP signed, protective management continues only for those segments found suitable for designation. This protective management remains in effect until Congress makes a final decision regarding designation, or the RMP is amended.

Rationale

Many of the river segments under evaluation have similar land tenure status, historical uses, and potential or existing uses. Therefore, the primary distinction for the KRNCA streams found suitable for designation by the planning team was the exceptional combination of outstandingly remarkable values that make them worthy additions to the NWSRS. In selecting the eight segments found suitable and recommended for designation in Alternative D, the planning team determined these streams represent the "crown jewels" of the King Range with their wild character, scenic beauty, outstanding recreation opportunities, quality anadromous fisheries, and/or significant cultural values.

The Mattole River mouth and estuary, Mill Creek, Honeydew Creek, South Fork Bear Creek, Big Creek, Big Flat Creek, and Gitchell Creek would make worthy additions to the NWSRS for the following reasons:

- Magnificent scenery, extensive recreational opportunities for day use, camping, and access to backcountry trails in the KRNCA.
- Excellent spawning and rearing habitat for federally listed salmonids. The Mattole Estuary also contains habitat for the federally listed endangered *Layia Carnosa.*
- The presence of these quality anadromous fisheries is also related to the significant cultural sites found at the Mattole River, South Fork Bear Creek, and several coastal streams.
- Designation would preserve and protect the free-flowing character, water quality, and outstandingly remarkable values of these exceptional river segments.
- A commitment has been demonstrated by the local community and non-federal entities to work collaboratively with BLM in implementing protective management of the resource values in these streams.
- No land ownership or potential uses would be in conflict or curtailed if these river segments were designated.
- No costs would be involved in acquiring necessary lands and interest in lands, as the BLM already manages the majority of land in the suitable corridors.

Of the river segments found non-suitable, the primary factor was the conclusion that they would not make worthy additions to the system. Although the segments have outstandingly remarkable values that meet eligibility criteria, the study team has determined that the values are not at a level that would make these segments worthy additions to the NWSRS when viewed in the context of the KRNCA as a whole, or within the California Coastal Range Physiographic Province.

Many of these watersheds have been substantially modified through past logging activities and the associated construction of roads, landings, and skid trails. The resulting landscapes would not broaden the representation of key ecosystems within the system. Although several of the segments found suitable have also been impacted from past logging, the impacts are not as extensive as has occurred in the non-suitable watersheds. A second factor contributed to the non-suitable recommendation for Humboldt and Telegraph Creeks. Although these watersheds are currently somewhat undeveloped, local (County) and

regional (Coastal Zone) planning calls for these stream corridors to be developed as residential areas within the Shelter Cove subdivision. This high level of development will change the character of the watersheds and be incompatible with Wild and Scenic River designation. Fisheries and other watershed values for all streams including the non-suitable segments will be afforded protection through state and local land use plans, the Endangered Species Act, and the Northwest Forest Plan.

APPENDIX E

RIPARIAN/AQUATIC STANDARD AND GUIDELINES

APPENDIX E

RIPARIAN/AQUATIC STANDARD AND GUIDELINES

DESCRIPTION – RIPARIAN RESERVE WIDTHS

Riparian Reserves are specified for five categories of streams or waterbodies as follows:

- **Fish-bearing streams** - Riparian Reserves consist of the stream and the area on each side of the stream extending from the edges of the active stream channel to the top of the inner gorge, or to the outer edges of the 100-year floodplain, or to the outer edges of riparian vegetation, or to a distance equal to the height of two site-potential trees, or 300 feet slope distance (600 feet total, including both sides of the stream channel), whichever is greatest.
- **Permanently flowing nonfish-bearing streams** - Riparian Reserves consist of the stream and the area on each side of the stream extending from the edges of the active stream channel to the top of the inner gorge, or to the outer edges of the 100-year floodplain, or to the outer edges of riparian vegetation, or to a distance equal to the height of one site-potential tree, or 150 feet slope distance (300 feet total, including both sides of the stream channel), whichever is greatest.
- **Constructed ponds and reservoirs, and wetlands greater than 1 acre** - Riparian Reserves consist of the body of water or wetland and: the area to the outer edges of the riparian vegetation, or to the extent of seasonally saturated soil, or the extent of unstable and potentially unstable areas, or to a distance equal to the height of one site-potential tree, or 150 feet slope distance from the edge of the wetland greater than 1 acre or the maximum pool elevation of constructed ponds and reservoirs, whichever is greatest.
- **Lakes and natural ponds** - Riparian Reserves consist of the body of water and: the area to the outer edges of the riparian vegetation, or to the extent of seasonally saturated soil, or to the extent of unstable and potentially unstable areas, or to a distance equal to the height of two site-potential trees, or 300 feet slope distance, whichever is greatest.
- **Seasonally flowing or intermittent streams, wetlands less than 1 acre, and unstable and potentially unstable areas** - This category applies to features with high variability in size and site-specific characteristics. At a minimum, the Riparian Reserves must include:
    - The extent of unstable and potentially unstable areas (including earthflows),
    - The stream channel and extend to the top of the inner gorge,
    - The stream channel or wetland and the area from the edges of the stream channel or wetland to the outer edges of the riparian vegetation, and
    - Extension from the edges of the stream channel to a distance equal to the height of one site-potential tree, or 100 feet slope distance, whichever is greatest.

A site-potential tree height is the average maximum height of the tallest dominant trees (200 years or older) for a given site class.

Intermittent streams are defined as any nonpermanent flowing drainage feature having a definable channel and evidence of annual scour or deposition. This includes what are sometimes referred to as ephemeral streams if they meet these two physical criteria.

TIMBER MANAGEMENT

TM-1. Prohibit timber harvest, including fuelwood cutting, in Riparian Reserves, except under the following conditions:

a. Where catastrophic events such as fire, flooding, wind, or insect damage result in degraded riparian conditions, allow forest health treatments and fuelwood cutting if required to attain Fisheries/Watershed Objectives objectives.

b. Allow forest health treatments (such as thinning over stocked and/or diseased stands) only when watershed analysis determines that present and future coarse woody debris needs are met and other Fisheries/Watershed Objectives objectives are not adversely affected.

c. Apply silvicultural practices for Riparian Reserves to control stocking, reestablish and manage stands, and acquire desired vegetation characteristics needed to attain Fisheries/Watershed Objectives objectives. For example, in the Mattole Basin consider riparian silviculture treatments to reduce hardwood canopy and to replant conifers to accelerate future large woody debris recruitment potential.

ROADS MANAGEMENT

RF-1. BLM will cooperate with other entities to achieve consistency in road design, operation, and maintenance necessary to attain Fisheries/Watershed Objectives objectives.

RF-2. For each existing or planned road, meet Fisheries/Watershed Objectives objectives by:

a. New roads are not allowed on west slope of KRNCA unless required for emergency purposes such as fire.

b. completing watershed analyses (including appropriate geotechnical analyses) prior to construction of new roads or landings in Riparian Reserves.

c. preparing road-specific maintenance plans for all roads in the KRNCA to minimize adverse impacts from roads.

d. All above activities will not occur during wet weather. BLM will inspect road conditions prior to initiating any routine road maintenance activity.

e. Heavy equipment operations will use all feasible techniques to prevent any sediment from entering a drainage system during operations. For example, operators will take precautions when

operating near drainages to keep surface materials out of the stream channel. Only operators who are informed of all applicable Standards and Guides and conditions of operation will be permitted to commence work. A BLM project inspector, or designee, will be onsite to insure proper procedures are followed.

f. Heavy equipment will be inspected daily by the BLM project inspector, or designee, to check for leaks. Equipment that may leak lubricants or fuels into drainages will not be used until leaks are repaired. Fuel trucks (if used) and/or re-fueling will be done outside of Riparian Reserves and stream crossings.

g. Vegetation trimming or removal conducted in Riparian Reserves will be completed in such a fashion as to not retard attainment of Fisheries/Watershed Objectives objectives. Specifically: 1) Downed woody material in Riparian Reserves will not be removed and will be moved only to the extent necessary to provide for safe road use. 2) Conifers exceeding three inches diameter will not be cut from Riparian Reserves unless it is absolutely necessary for safe use of the road segment. If a conifer exceeding three inches diameter must be cut, it may not be moved from the Riparian Reserve or stream corridor without review from a BLM fishery biologist or designee.

h. Water drafting will be conducted only at sites approved by BLM staff and will follow NMFS guidelines.

i. Mulching will be used, as necessary, to minimize sediment delivery from disturbed ground outside the active stream channel.

RF-3. Determine the influence of each road on the Fisheries/Watershed Objectives objectives through watershed analysis. BLM has completed several watershed analyses and has coordinated with MRC to inventory roads and to address road problems. Although much of the road work (decommissioning, closing, stabilizing) has been done, this program will continue and will be applied to other watersheds (untreated watersheds with smaller public land holdings and a few roads on the west side of the KRNCA) within the KRNCA. Meet Fisheries/Watershed Objectives objectives by:

a. reconstructing roads and associated drainage features that pose a substantial risk.

b. prioritizing reconstruction based on current and potential impact to riparian resources and the ecological value of the riparian resources affected.

c. closing and stabilizing, or obliterating and stabilizing roads based on the ongoing and potential effects to Fisheries/Watershed Objectives objectives and considering short-term and long-term transportation needs and required access through BLM lands to private inholdings.

RF-4. New culverts, bridges and other stream crossings shall be constructed, and existing culverts, bridges and other stream crossings determined to pose a substantial risk to riparian conditions will be improved, to accommodate at least the 100-year flood, including associated bedload and debris. Priority for upgrading will be based on the potential impact and the ecological value of the riparian resources

affected. Crossings will be constructed and maintained to prevent diversion of streamflow out of the channel and down the road in the event of crossing failure.

RF-5. Minimize sediment delivery to streams from roads. Outsloping of the roadway surface is preferred, except in cases where outsloping would increase sediment delivery to streams or where outsloping is unfeasible or unsafe. Route road drainage away from potentially unstable channels, fills, and hillslopes.

RF-6. Provide and maintain fish passage at all road crossings of existing and potential fish-bearing streams.

RF-7. Develop and implement a Transportation Management Plan that will meet the Fisheries/Watershed Objectives objectives. As a minimum, this plan shall include provisions for the following activities:

a. inspections and maintenance during storm events.

b. inspections and maintenance after storm events.

c. road operation and maintenance, giving high priority to identifying and correcting road drainage problems that contribute to degrading riparian resources.

d. traffic regulation during wet periods to prevent damage to riparian resources.

e. establish the purpose of each road by developing the Road Management Objective.

GRAZING MANAGEMENT

GM-1. Adjust grazing practices to eliminate impacts that retard or prevent attainment of Fisheries/Watershed Objectives objectives. If adjusting practices is not effective, eliminate grazing. BLM has completed consultation with regulatory agencies on their grazing allottments in the KRNCA and grazing practices have already been adjusted. If conditions change, such as a severe drought, further adjustments may be required in the future on order to meet Fisheries/Watershed Objectives objectives.

GM-2. No new livestock handling and/or management facilities will be located inside of Riparian Reserves. For existing livestock handling facilities inside the Riparian Reserve, ensure that Fisheries/Watershed Objectives objectives are met. Where these objectives cannot be met, require relocation or removal of such facilities.

GM-3. Limit livestock trailing, bedding, watering, loading, and other handling efforts to those areas and times that will ensure Fisheries/Watershed Objectives objectives are met.

RECREATION MANAGEMENT

RM-1. New recreational facilities within Riparian Reserves, including trails and dispersed sites, should be designed to complement Fisheries/Watershed objectives. Construction of these facilities should not prevent future attainment of these objectives. For existing recreation facilities within Riparian Reserves, evaluate and mitigate impact to ensure that these do not prevent, and to the extent practicable contribute to, attainment of Fisheries/Watershed Objectives objectives.

RM-2. Adjust dispersed and developed recreation practices that retard or prevent attainment of Fisheries/Watershed Objectives objectives. Where adjustment measures such as education, use limitations, traffic control devices, increased maintenance, relocation of facilities, and/or specific site closures are not effective, eliminate the practice or occupancy. As use increases, human waste may impact water quality in west slope streams requiring further education to redirect use. Wailaki, Nadelos and Honeydew Creek campgrounds are in Riparian Reserves and use needs to be focused on primary trails to protect streambanks from dispersed foot traffic.

RM-3. Wild and Scenic Rivers and Wilderness management plans will address attainment of Fisheries/Watershed Objectives objectives.

MINERALS MANAGEMENT

MM-1. Require a reclamation plan, approved Plan of Operations, and reclamation bond for all minerals operations that include Riparian Reserves. Such plans and bonds must address the costs of removing facilities, equipment, and materials; recontouring disturbed areas to near pre-mining topography; isolating and neutralizing or removing toxic or potentially toxic materials; salvage and replacement of topsoil; and seedbed preparation and revegetation to meet Fisheries/Watershed Objectives objectives.

MM-2. Locate structures, support facilities, and roads outside Riparian Reserves. Where no alternative to siting facilities in Riparian Reserves exists, locate them in a way compatible with Fisheries/Watershed Objectives objectives. Road construction will be kept to the minimum necessary for the approved mineral activity. Such roads will be constructed and maintained to meet roads management standards and to minimize damage to resources in the Riparian Reserve. When a road is no longer required for mineral or land management activities, it will be closed, obliterated, and stabilized.

MM-3. Prohibit solid and sanitary waste facilities in Riparian Reserves. If no alternative to locating mine waste (waste rock, spent ore, tailings) facilities in Riparian Reserves exists, and releases can be prevented, and stability can be ensured, then:

a. analyze the waste material using the best conventional sampling methods and analytic techniques to determine its chemical and physical stability characteristics.

b. locate and design the waste facilities using best conventional techniques to ensure mass stability and prevent the release of acid or toxic materials. If the best conventional technology is not sufficient to prevent such releases and ensure stability over the long term, prohibit such facilities in Riparian Reserves.

c. monitor waste and waste facilities after operations to ensure chemical and physical stability and to meet Fisheries/Watershed Objectives objectives.

d. reclaim waste facilities after operations to ensure chemical and physical stability and to meet Fisheries/Watershed Objectives objectives.

e. require reclamation bonds adequate to ensure long-term chemical and physical stability of mine waste facilities.

MM-4. For leasable minerals, prohibit surface occupancy within Riparian Reserves for oil, gas, and geothermal exploration and development activities where leases do not already exist. Where possible, adjust the operating plans of existing contracts to eliminate impacts that retard or prevent the attainment of Fisheries/Watershed Objectives objectives.

MM-5. Salable mineral activities such as sand and gravel mining and extraction within Riparian Reserves will occur only if Fisheries/Watershed Objectives objectives can be met.

MM-6. Include inspection and monitoring requirements in mineral plans, leases or permits. Evaluate the results of inspection and monitoring to effect the modification of mineral plans, leases and permits as needed to eliminate impacts that retard or prevent attainment of Fisheries/Watershed Objectives objectives.

FIRE/FUELS MANAGEMENT

FM-1. Design fuel treatment and fire suppression strategies, practices, and activities to meet Fisheries/Watershed Objectives objectives, and to minimize disturbance of riparian ground cover and vegetation. Strategies should recognize the role of fire in ecosystem function and identify those instances where fire suppression or fuels management activities could be damaging to long-term ecosystem function.

FM-2. Locate incident bases, camps, helibases, staging areas, helispots and other centers for incident activities outside Riparian Reserves. If the only suitable location for such activities is within the Riparian Reserve, an exemption may be granted following review and recommendation by a resource advisor. The advisor will prescribe the location, use conditions, and rehabilitation requirements. Use an interdisciplinary team to predetermine suitable incident base and helibase locations.

FM-3. Minimize delivery of chemical retardant, foam, or additives to surface waters. An exception may be warranted in situations where overriding immediate safety imperatives exist, or, following review and recommendation by a resource advisor, when an escape would cause more long-term damage.

FM-4. Design prescribed burn projects and prescriptions to contribute to attainment of Fisheries/Watershed Objectives objectives.

FM-5. Immediately establish an emergency team to develop a rehabilitation treatment plan needed to attain Fisheries/Watershed Objectives objectives whenever Riparian Reserves are significantly damaged by wildfire or a prescribed fire burning outside prescribed parameters.

Other - In Riparian Reserves, the goal of wildfire suppression is to limit the size of all fires. When watershed and/or landscape analysis, or province-level plans are completed and approved, some natural fires may be allowed to burn under prescribed conditions. Rapidly extinguishing smoldering coarse woody debris and duff should be considered to preserve these ecosystem elements. In Riparian Reserves, water drafting sites should be located and managed to minimize adverse effects on riparian habitat and water quality, as consistent with Fisheries/Watershed Objectives objectives.

LANDS

LH-1. Identify in-stream flows needed to maintain riparian resources, channel conditions, and fish passage. Investigate water rights applications and consider cumulative water withdrawals before issuing permits. Work with County on the Shelter Cove water drafting site on Bear Creek to manage water withdrawals to meet Fisheries/Watershed Objectives objectives.

LH-2. Tier 1 Key Watersheds: For hydroelectric and other surface water development proposals, require in-stream flows and habitat conditions that maintain or restore riparian resources, favorable channel conditions, and fish passage. Coordinate this process with the appropriate state agencies. During relicensing of hydroelectric projects, provide written and timely license conditions to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) that require flows and habitat conditions that maintain or restore riparian resources and channel integrity. Coordinate relicensing projects with the appropriate state agencies.

For all other watersheds: For hydroelectric and other surface water development proposals, give priority emphasis to in-stream flows and habitat conditions that maintain or restore riparian resources, favorable channel conditions, and fish passage. Coordinate this process with the appropriate state agencies. During relicensing of hydroelectric projects, provide written and timely license conditions to FERC that emphasize in-stream flows and habitat conditions that maintain or restore riparian resources and channel integrity. Coordinate relicensing projects with the appropriate state agencies.

LH-3. Locate new support facilities outside Riparian Reserves. For existing support facilities inside Riparian Reserves that are essential to proper management, provide recommendations to FERC that ensure Fisheries/Watershed Objectives objectives are met. Where these objectives cannot be met, provide recommendations to FERC that such support facilities should be relocated. Existing support facilities that must be located in the Riparian Reserves will be located, operated, and maintained with an emphasis to eliminate adverse effects that retard or prevent attainment of Fisheries/Watershed Objectives objectives.

LH-4. For activities other than surface water developments, issue leases, permits, rights-of-way, and easements to avoid adverse effects that retard or prevent attainment of Fisheries/Watershed Objectives objectives. Adjust existing leases, permits, rights-of-way, and easements to eliminate adverse effects that retard or prevent the attainment of Fisheries/Watershed Objectives objectives. If adjustments are not

effective, eliminate the activity. Priority for modifying existing leases, permits, rights-of-way and easements will be based on the actual or potential impact and the ecological value of the riparian resources affected.

LH-5. Use land acquisition, exchange, and conservation easements to meet Fisheries/Watershed Objectives objectives and facilitate restoration of fish stocks and other species at risk of extinction. Much of this work has been completed for the KRNCA such that the west slope of the KRNCA would be the next priority.

GENERAL RIPARIAN AREA MANAGEMENT

RA-1. Identify and attempt to secure in-stream flows needed to maintain riparian resources, channel conditions, and aquatic habitat.

RA-2 Fell trees in Riparian Reserves when they pose a safety risk. Keep felled trees on-site when needed to meet coarse woody debris objectives.

RA-3. Herbicides, insecticides, and other toxicants, and other chemicals shall be applied only in a manner that avoids impacts that retard or prevent attainment of Fisheries/Watershed Objectives objectives.

RA-4. Locate water drafting sites to minimize adverse effects on stream channel stability, sedimentation, and in-stream flows needed to maintain riparian resources, channel conditions, and fish habitat. Drafting methods will follow NOAA Fisheries specifications (NMFS 1995), including the following: portable pumps will have screened intakes; streams will not be dewatered as a result of water drafting; and drafting will not reduce stream flows by more than 10%, measured at the first point of anadromy downstream of the drafting site.

WATERSHED AND HABITAT RESTORATION

WR-1. Design and implement watershed restoration projects in a manner that promotes long-term ecological integrity of ecosystems, conserves the genetic integrity of native species, and attains Fisheries/Watershed Objectives objectives.

WR-2. Cooperate with federal, state, local, and tribal agencies, and private landowners to develop watershed-based Coordinated Resource Management Plans or other cooperative agreements to meet Fisheries/Watershed Objectives objectives.

WR-3. Do not use mitigation or planned restoration as a substitute for preventing habitat degradation.

WR-4 Consider instream enhancement only when upland erosion problems have been addressed.

FISH AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

FW-1. Design and implement fish and wildlife habitat restoration and enhancement activities in a manner that contributes to attainment of Fisheries/Watershed Objectives objectives.

FW-2. Design, construct and operate fish and wildlife interpretive and other user-enhancement facilities in a manner that does not retard or prevent attainment of Fisheries/Watershed Objectives objectives. For existing fish and wildlife interpretative and other user-enhancement facilities inside Riparian Reserves, ensure that Fisheries/Watershed Objectives objectives are met. Where Fisheries/Watershed Objectives objectives cannot be met, relocate or close such facilities.

FW-3. Cooperate with federal, tribal, and state wildlife management agencies to identify and eliminate wild ungulate impacts that are inconsistent with attainment of Fisheries/Watershed Objectives objectives. Consider reintroduction of Elk to the KRNCA.

FW-4. Cooperate with federal, tribal, and state fish management agencies to identify and eliminate impacts associated with habitat manipulation, fish stocking, harvest and poaching that threaten the continued existence and distribution of native fish stocks occurring on federal lands. Increase public education by installing signs at Lost Coast trailhead.

RESEARCH

RS-1. A variety of research activities may be ongoing and proposed in Key Watersheds and Riparian Reserves. These activities must be analyzed to ensure that significant risk to the watershed values does not exist. If significant risk is present and cannot be mitigated, study sites must be relocated. Some activities not otherwise consistent with the objectives may be appropriate, particularly if the activities will test critical assumptions of these standards and guidelines; will produce results important for establishing or accelerating vegetation and structural characteristics for maintaining or restoring aquatic and riparian ecosystems; or the activities represent continuation of long-term research. These activities should be considered only if there are no equivalent opportunities outside of Key Watersheds and Riparian Reserves. Continue cooperative research efforts with fisheries biologists at Humboldt State University.

RS-2. Current, funded, agency-approved research, which meets the above criteria, is assumed to continue if analysis ensures that a significant risk to Fisheries/Watershed Objectives objectives does not exist. Research Stations and other Forest Service and BLM units will, within 180 days of the signing of the Record of Decision adopting these standards and guidelines, submit a brief project summary to the Regional Ecosystem Office of ongoing research projects that are potentially inconsistent with other standards and guidelines but are expected to continue under the above research exception. The Regional Ecosystem Office may choose to more formally review specific projects, and may recommend to the Regional Interagency Executive Committee modification, up to and including cancellation, of those projects having an unacceptable risk to Key Watersheds and Riparian Reserves. Risk will be considered within the context of the Fisheries/Watershed Objectives objectives.

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APPENDIX F

REPORTED FIRES IN THE KING RANGE NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA

(1981 – 2003)

APPENDIX F

REPORTED FIRES IN THE KING RANGE NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA

(1981 – 2003)

The Fire Management Staff at the BLM, Arcata Field Office prepared the following wildfire information in 2003. The data exists in current BLM files and is listed by year, name, cause, and size for each incident of record

Reported Fires in the KRNCA for the Period of 1981 - 2003

YEAR	FIRE NAME	CAUSE	SIZE (ACRES)
1981	Mattole	Human	1
1983	BLM2	Human	10
	BLM3	Human	0.1
1984	Driftwood	Human	0.1
1988	Lake Ridge	Human	550
	Saddle	Human	6050
1990	CDF123	Lightning	0.1
	Mattole Beach	Human	1
	Mill Creek	Lightning	30
	Kings Peak	Lightning	3500
1991	Mattole	Human	1
	Tolkan	Human	0.1
	Punta	Human	5 (Only reported natural out)
1992	Cooskie	Human	270
1993	Flat	Human	0.6
1994	Cooskie	Human	65
1995	Mattole #1	Human	0.1
	Mattole #2	Human	0.1
1996	Shelter	Human	0.5
	Gitchell	Human	3
	Black	Human	0.1
	Kiosk	Human	0.1
1997	Mattole #1	Human	0.1
	Mattole #2	Human	0.1
	Mattole #3	Human	0.1
	Mattole #4	Human	0.1
	Mattole #5	Human	0.1
	Mattole #6	Human	0.1
	Collins	Human	2.5

YEAR	FIRE NAME	CAUSE	SIZE (ACRES)
1998	Honeydew Creek	Human	0.1
	Miller	Human	0.1
	Big Creek	Human	1
1999	Horse	Human	0.1
	Big	Human	2
2001	Spanish	Human	0.1
	Flat	Human	308
	Gitchell	Human	0.1
	Randall	Human	60
2003	Drift	Human	0.1
	Big	Human	0.1
	King	Human	4
	Ten	Lightning	226
	Twelve	Lightning	0.3
	Cham 1	Lightning	3
	Cham 2	Lightning	0.3
	Honeydew	Lightning	13,778
	Paradise	Lightning	0.1

No fires were reported on the King Range during the years 1980, 1982, 1985, 1986, 1987, 1989, 2000, and 2002.
Bureau of Land Management, Arcata Office, 2003

APPENDIX G

CONCLUSIONS FROM 1997 RECREATION VISITOR SURVEY

APPENDIX G

SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS, AND RECOMMENDATIONS FROM 1997 LOST COAST TRAIL BACKCOUNTRY VISITOR SURVEY

Steven R. Martin and Carolyn J. Widner

In this section we will summarize the key findings of the study, and attempt to draw some conclusions as to the meaning of those findings, as well as translate selected conclusions into management recommendations. Appendix K lists all general comments made by respondents on the last page of the questionnaire.

Lost Coast Trail visitors tend to be experienced backcountry visitors in general, yet most are first-time visitors to the Lost Coast Trail, and most of the rest have visited only once or twice. It is likely that much of these visitors' previous backcountry experience has come in environments that are unlike the Lost Coast Trail, since there are few coastal backcountry or wilderness areas left in this country. Visitors with previous backcountry experience should be easier to educate about minimum impact practices, but extra effort will need to be made to instruct them about practices that are appropriate for coastal areas with which they are likely unfamiliar, as well as to break them of habits that may be appropriate for more typical backcountry areas but inappropriate for a coastal oceanfront environment (*e.g.* human waste disposal).

Solitude is a highly desired outcome sought by Lost Coast Trail visitors, and is the one type of experience that visitors rated the importance of higher than they rated their ability to obtain it. However, many of the steps that managers might consider taking to preserve opportunities for solitude could well interfere with another aspect of the Lost Coast Trail experience highly valued by visitors--autonomy and personal freedom. Reading the open-ended comments that visitors made in response to several questions in the survey, it is clear that visitors cherish the autonomy and opportunity for freedom from undue regulation on their behavior that is available on the Lost Coast Trail. This suggests that managers will have to carefully weigh the benefits of restricting use to preserve opportunities for solitude against the costs that such restrictions may have relative to the freedom and autonomy of visitors.

Respondents also showed a surprising degree of attachment to the area, especially considering that a majority of visitors were visiting for the first time. The item garnering the largest percentage of respondents was "This place says a lot about who I am." This suggests that people identify so closely with the area that the area becomes important to them in terms of self-identity. When people express such a high degree of attachment to an area they also tend to oppose changes in the area. Managers will have to move slowly in implementing management changes in an area with such a highly attached constituency.

Not surprisingly, the most common activity reported was hiking. However, wildlife viewing also showed up as an activity in which fully 95% of all respondents participate in--43% as the primary reason for their

trip. Sixty nine percent (69%) of visitors participate in nature study, 66% in tidepool exploration, and 50% in "collecting." These are activities that lend themselves well to interpretation, especially since only one out of five people who participate in tidepool exploration (for example) said that it was a major reason for their trip. People who engage in activities such as wildlife viewing, collecting, tidepool exploration, and nature study, but who don't list that activity as the major reason for their trip, represent a segment of visitors who 1) may not know a whole lot about that activity; 2) apparently are interested enough in the activity to participate, and therefore may be interested in learning more; and 3) since they may not know a lot about the activity but are still engaging in it may represent the potential for causing resource damage by not engaging in the activity in an environmentally sound manner. For example, 53% of respondents said they participated in tidepool exploration but that it was not a major reason for the trip. As casual participants in the activity, these visitors may not know how to go about tidepool exploration in a manner that minimizes their impact on the resources. Likewise with wildlife viewing--52% of visitors say they did it but that it wasn't a major reason for the trip. Are these visitors, simply through ignorance, disturbing the very wildlife they seek to observe? We feel certain that the vast majority of visitors would not want to cause disturbance or resource damage, but as casual participants may be doing so unwittingly. Efforts to interpret wildlife, tidepool ecosystems, and so on can include an educational component that informs visitors of the proper etiquette for engaging in these activities. There is a large segment of visitors who are primed for such information due to their expressed interest in these activities, and who have also expressed an interest in information on the natural history and features of the area. This information could be presented in a publication (see next paragraph), and/or in a separate interpretive brochure or series of brochures.

Regarding information use and preferences, both first-time visitors and experienced visitors commented that road and trail maps and directions need to be improved--made more clear, specific, and detailed. The two types of information most desired by both experienced and first-time visitors are information on specific trail conditions and descriptions, and information on natural history and features of the area. The next two most desired types of information are directions to trailheads, and weather conditions. Both groups indicated that after friends/relatives and personal experience, maps and the BLM were the next two most often used and most preferred sources of information. Perhaps the BLM can produce a more detailed guide to the Lost Coast Trail, and include specific information on trail conditions, directions to the trailheads, and weather conditions, as well as interpretive information on the natural and cultural history and features of the area, guidelines for low impact camping practices, and hiker shuttle services. Such a publication could be sold at a modest price to recover publication costs.

It is sometimes helpful to compare the perceptions of experienced visitors with those of first-time visitors in order to assess trends in conditions. We compared these two groups of visitors on selected questions and found the following. Experienced visitors are more likely (than first-timers) to say that they saw too many surfers and too many OHVs. This suggests one of two things (or a combination of these two things): that the number of surfers and OHVs is increasing, and/or that the visitor population is changing and visitors who are sensitive to crowding from surfers or OHVs are no longer visiting the area as much as before. Similarly, experienced visitors were more likely than first-timers to complain that litter and human waste were problems. Again, this suggests that litter and human waste may be more of a problem now than in the past (or that first-time visitors are less sensitized to litter and human waste).

It can also sometimes be helpful to compare the perceptions of local and non-local users on selected issues. We compared these two groups on the question of the need to limit use, strategies for limiting

use, and willingness to pay to use the area. Locals were defined as residents of Mendocino and Humboldt counties. We found no differences between these groups on the need to limit use to the area, or on the need to limit group size. Only 27 to 30% of both groups felt there was currently a need to limit use, while only 18 to 23% felt that use limits should never be considered for the area now or at any time in the future. Half of both groups felt that use limits were not needed now but should be imposed in the future if and when overuse occurs. Of those in both groups who felt a group size limit was needed, a majority of both groups felt that a limit of 6 to 10 people was preferred.

Differences between the two groups (locals and non-locals) on support for or opposition to specific use limit strategies were significant in two cases, and marginally significant in two more. The most significant differences between locals and non-locals were 1) locals were much more likely (53% to 32%) to strongly oppose a permit system based on a drawing or lottery; and 2) non-locals were much more likely (34% to 17%) to strongly support a permit system based on a reservation system. Marginally significant differences between the groups were 1) locals were much more likely (51% to 35%) to strongly oppose charging a flat rate user fee; and 2) locals were also generally less supportive and more opposed than non-locals to charging a higher fee at busier times. This difference also showed up in the question on willingness to pay--locals were less likely to indicate a willingness to pay to use the area than were non-locals, although interestingly a majority of both groups did indicate that they would be willing to pay to use the area, and there was no difference in the average amount per person per day that locals and non-locals said they were willing to pay. Finally, and not surprisingly, we found that if a use permit system were implemented, locals would be more likely than non-locals to visit the area even if they failed to obtain a permit. In conclusion, differences between locals and non-locals on use limit issues and willingness to pay are not very pronounced, with the largest difference being that locals are less likely to support fees in general and more likely to oppose fees as a method for limiting use.

Conflict was felt by about half of all users to the area, with conflict due to perceived resource impacts receiving the highest percentage of visitors reporting this to be a problem. Of the 43% of visitors that reported this aspect of conflict to be a problem, 38% of them indicated that hikers and backpackers were the primary user group responsible for the impacts. This is not surprising since the highest percentage of users to the Lost Coast is hikers and backpackers. However, it is surprising that for the two remaining index measures of conflict, the behavior of others, and crowding, the user group most blamed for these types of conflict were OHV users. It is surprising because OHV groups were the least encountered of any of the user group. The implication for managers is that although OHV use on the Lost Coast Trail is low, the resulting impact for visitors is great. In other words, although visitors had relatively few encounters with OHVs, those encounters had a disproportionately negative effect on visitors. Given the relatively light use of the area by OHVs, and the disproportionate amount of conflict this use causes, the BLM should carefully consider the appropriateness of continued OHV use of Black Sands Beach.

On the issue of limiting use along the Lost Coast Trail, most visitors agreed that controls were not needed now, but should be implemented in the future if overuse occurs. Open-ended comments from visitors indicated that the two primary indicators of overuse for visitors were trash and damage to the resource. The most frequent indicator was trash, and many visitors indicated that they would assess damage to the resource in terms of too much trash in the area. This perception of trash as resource damage is very different from an ecological perspective that views impacts to soil, vegetation, and water as primary indicators of resource damage, and trash as more of a sociological problem. In addition, if visitors are indicating that they assess overuse by the amount of trash on the trail, then strategies for

limiting use may not be the solution to the problem of "crowding." When asked what they think should be done to limit use if the need arises, most visitors suggest that providing information regarding peak use times and allowing visitors to spread themselves out more is preferable to limiting access. One implication for management is that visitors to the Lost Coast Trail who highly value freedom from rules and regulations, and who may perceive trash as more of an indicator of overuse than simply numbers of visitors, might better be managed through light-handed techniques that focus on the old "pack-it-in-pack-it-out" rule, and not so much on the actual limitation of visitors to the area. However, if actual numbers of people would need to be limited, visitors indicated that they would prefer either the first-come first-served method or the reservation system over paying fees or limiting group sizes.

Visitors were generally highly satisfied with the management of the area, indicating that most issues were not a problem. Keeping with the above discussion, the issue that was reported as the biggest problem was litter. Since visitors are much less likely to litter an area that is clean to start with, and more likely to litter an area that is already littered, an early season clean-up of the area by backcountry personnel, followed by a concerted and continuing effort to promote a pack-it-in pack-it-out ethic is probably the best way to approach this problem. An annual clean-up day that involves locals and tackles the areas closest to the trailheads may also give people a sense of stewardship or ownership of the resource, which in turn often results in a user population that takes better care of that resource. Poorly marked trails and a lack of information (about the Lost Coast area, trails, and periods of heavy use) were the two other problems receiving the highest percentages of visitors indicating that it was a major or moderate problem. Providing better information, perhaps in the form of improved trailhead boards, brochures, or a more detailed guide, could help to alleviate this problem.

Other information that should be included in a publication, brochure, or trailhead contact station is information concerning low-impact camping practices specific to an ocean front area. As indicated above most visitors to the area are experienced in backcountry camping practices but have little or no site-specific experience. The result is a visitor population that knows little about the correct low-impact camping practices for a backcountry ocean front area.

APPENDIX H

MANAGEMENT OF LANDS WITH WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS

APPENDIX H

MANAGEMENT OF LANDS WITH WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS

MANAGEMENT DIRECTION

Management of Lands With Wilderness Characteristics is part of BLM's multiple-use mandate, and is recognized within the spectrum of resource values and uses.

Public lands with wilderness characteristics generally:

- Have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of humans substantially unnoticeable,
- Have outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation,
- Have at least five thousand acres of land or of sufficient size as to make practicable its preservation and use in unimpaired condition, and
- Potentially containing ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value.

With exceptions, public lands having wilderness characteristics should be managed to protect these values. In addition, they should augment multiple-use management of the KRNCA and adjacent lands particularly for the protection of watersheds and water yield, wildlife habitat, natural plant communities, and similar natural values.

With exceptions, the following activities generally do not occur within lands having wilderness characteristics:

Commercial enterprises	Permanent roads
Temporary roads	Use of motor vehicles
Use of motorized equipment	Use of motorboats
Landing of aircraft	Mechanical transport
Structures	Installations

However, there are exceptions to these prohibitions and they are generally grouped into three categories.

- Valid Existing Rights. Prior-existing rights may continue. New discretionary uses that create valid existing rights are not allowed.
- Administrative Activities. New commercial activities or new permanent roads will not be authorized. BLM may authorize any of the other prohibitions if it is necessary to meet the minimum requirements to administer and protect the lands with wilderness character (called the

"minimum requirement exception") and to protect the health and safety of persons within the area.

- Other General Allowances. Subject to limitations determined by the State Director, general allowances could include actions necessary to control fire, insects, and diseases, recurring Federal mineral surveys, established livestock grazing, commercial services to the extent necessary for activities which are proper for realizing the recreational or other wilderness character purposes and compatible with the defined values, and adequate access to inholdings.

SPECIFIC GUIDANCE

1. Emergencies. The use of motor vehicles and mechanical transport, and the construction of temporary roads, structures, and installations is allowed for emergency purposes and when consistent with the management principles of the NCA and the "minimum requirement exceptions."

2. Land Disposals, Rights-of-Ways, Use Authorizations. These lands will be retained in public ownership. They will not be disposed through any means, including public sales, exchanges, patents under the Recreation and Public Purposes Act, color of title Class II, desert land entries (except where a vested right was established prior to October 21, 1976) or State selections.

Disposals may be permitted under normal BLM procedures for mining patents, color of title Class I, and desert land entries in which a vested right was established.

Prior existing rights, such as leases under the Recreation and Public Purposes Act, leases/permits under 43 CFR 2920, and rights-of-ways (ROWs) may continue. These also could be renewed if they are still being used for their authorized purpose. New authorizations, leases, permit, and ROWs will not be authorized since they are considered new valid rights.

3. Routes of Travel. The construction of new permanent roads will not be allowed. New temporary roads could be allowed if the BLM determines it is consistent with the "minimum requirement exception," if it is necessary to protect the health and safety of persons within the area, or if necessary to control fire, insects, and diseases.

Motorized or mechanized use of the existing routes is allowed subject to prescriptions outlined in the route designation process or stipulations identified in an authorization. Unless stipulated in the plan, any motorized or mechanized uses off those routes of travel will not be allowed.

4. Mining. Existing and new mining operations will be regulated using the 43 CFR 3809 regulations to prevent unnecessary and undue degradation of the lands.

5. Mineral Leasing. Existing mineral leases represent a valid existing right. These rights are dependent upon the specific terms and conditions of each lease. Existing leases will be regulated to prevent unnecessary or undue degradation.

No new surface occupancy leases will be issued. Non-surface occupancy leases may be issued if they will not impact the area's wilderness character. This applies to public lands, including split-estate.

6. Grazing. Existing livestock grazing, and the activities and facilities that support a grazing program are permitted to continue at the same level and degree, subject to any additional prescriptions.

Adjustments in the numbers and kind of livestock permitted to graze would be made as a result of revisions in the land use plan. Consideration is given to range condition, the protection of the range resource from deterioration, and protection of the wilderness character of the area.

The construction of new grazing facilities would be permitted if they are primarily for the purpose of protecting wilderness characteristics and more effective management of resources, rather than to accommodate increased numbers of livestock.

The use of motorized equipment for emergency purposes is allowed.

7. Fire Management. Fire management will be consistent with Bureau policy. Fires must be controlled to prevent the loss of human life or property. They must also be controlled to prevent the spread of fires to areas outside of Lands With Wilderness Character where life, resources, or property may be threatened. Human caused wildfires will be prevented and/or controlled. It may be appropriate to allow natural fires to burn in conformity with a fire management plan. Prescribed fires are allowed in conformity with a fire management plan so long as it consistent in improving or maintaining the areas wilderness character. Light-on-the-land fire management techniques will be applied.

New fire management structures are allowed if it is necessary to meet the minimum requirements to administer and protect the Lands With Wilderness Character and to protect the health and safety of persons within the area.

8. Forest/Vegetation Health. Insects, disease, and invasive species may be controlled if determined that it is necessary to meet the minimum requirements to administer and protect these lands.

Insect and disease outbreaks must not be artificially controlled, except to protect timber or other valuable resources outside the Land With Wilderness Character, or in special instances when the loss to resources within these lands is undesirable.

Vegetative manipulation to control noxious, exotic, or invasive species is allowed when there is no effective alternative and when the control is necessary to maintain the natural ecological balances within the area. Control may include manual, chemical, and biological treatment provided it will not cause adverse impacts to the wilderness character.

Where naturalness has been impacted by past timber harvesting, forest stand treatments such as thinnings would be allowed in limited areas, as long as the primary purpose is to accelerate to return these impacted areas to a natural character.

9. Recreation. Primitive and unconfined recreational uses such as hiking, camping, rock climbing, caving, fishing, hunting, trapping, etc. are allowed on these lands. Recreational uses will not be allowed if they require:

- Motor vehicles or mechanical transport (e.g, mountain bikes) off routes designated as open or limited as designated through the route designation process.
- The use of motorboats.
- Permanent structures or installations (other than tents, tarpaulins, temporary corrals, and similar devices for overnight camping).

New commercial services will not be allowed unless they are necessary for realizing the primitive and unconfined recreational values. An example of an allowed commercial service would be an outfitting and guide service. Existing commercial recreational authorizations may be allowed to continue under its terms and conditions to their expiration date.

Recreational or hobby collecting of mineral specimens when conducted without location of a mining claim may be allowed. This use will be limited to hand collection and detection equipment.

10. Cultural and Paleontological Resources. Cultural and paleontological resources are recognized as unique and valuable. They are also important supplemental values to an area's wilderness character.

Resource inventories, studies, and research involving surface examination may be permitted if it benefits wilderness values. This same standard applies for the salvage of archeological and paleontological sites; rehabilitation, stabilization, reconstruction, and restoration work on historic structures; excavations; and extensive surface collection may also be permitted for a specific project.

Permanent physical protection, such as fences, will be limited to those measures needed to protect resources eligible for the National Register of Historic Places and will be constructed so as to minimize impacts on apparent naturalness.

11. Wildlife Management. Fish and wildlife resources are a special feature that may contribute to an area's wilderness character. Whenever possible, these resources should be managed to maintain that character.

Nothing will be construed as affecting the jurisdiction or responsibilities of the State agencies with respect to fish and wildlife management on these lands. Fishing, hunting and trapping are legitimate activities on these lands. The State establishes regulations and enforcement for these uses.

State wildlife agencies and the BLM are responsible for fostering a mutual understanding and cooperation in the management of fish and wildlife. Management activities on these lands will emphasize the protection of natural processes. Management activities will be guided by the principle of doing the minimum necessary to manage the area to preserve its natural character.

Management of public lands having wilderness character will follow the guidelines provided in the Memorandum of Understanding between the BLM and the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies. It will also follow any additional site-specific wildlife decisions addressed through the land use planning process.

APPENDIX I

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY

Liquefied Natural Gas to Shippers, Authorization of Site, Construction and Operation, Stratton Ridge Meter Station 2007, City of Freeport, Brazoria County, TX.

Summary: EPA expressed environmental concern regarding wetland impacts/mitigation, Clean Water Act Section 402 permitting, vaporization water intake and discharge impacts, and conformity with the state's implementation plan for air quality. EPA requested additional information on these issues.

ERP No. D–FRC–L05230–OR Rating LO, Pelton Round Butte Hydroelectric Project, (FERC No. 2030–036), Application for a New License for Existing 366.82-megawatt Project, Deschutes River, OR.

Summary: EPA Region 10 used a screening tool to conduct a limited review of this action. Base upon the screen, EPA does not foresee having environmental objections to the proposed project. Therefore, EPA will not conduct a detailed review.

ERP No. D–NOA–K91012–00 Rating EC2, Bottomfish and Seamount Groundfish Fisheries Conservation and Management Plan, Implementation, US Economic Zone (EEZ) around the State of Hawaii, Territories of Samoa and Guam, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana and various Islands and Atolls known as the U.S. Pacific remove island areas, HI, GU and AS.

Summary: EPA expressed concerns regarding the integration of the proposed alternative with other restrictions on Bottomfish fishing in the Western Pacific, and impacts to federally-endangered Hawaiian Monk Seals.

ERP No. DS–COE–D36107–WV, Rating EC2, Lower Mud River at Milton Project, Updated Information on the Milton Local Protection Project, Proposed Flood Damage Reduction Measure, City of Milton, Cabell County, WV.

Summary: EPA expressed environmental concerns over impacts to wetlands and the effectiveness of the proposed wetland mitigation measures. EPA requested additional information regarding the mitigation measures, as well as baseline environmental conditions and predicted cumulative impacts.

Final EISs

ERP No. F–AFS–J65369–MT, Windmill Timber Sale and Road Decommissioning Project, Timber Harvesting, Road Construction and Road Decommissioning, Mill Creek Drainage, Absaroka Mountain Range, Gallatin National Forest, Park County, MT.

Summary: The Final EIS includes planning, design and mitigation measures which will reduce environmental impacts to water quality and old growth habitat. EPA does have concerns for potential adverse environmental impacts from development of land transferred through exchange, should insufficient revenue be generated by the Windmill Timber Sale for land acquisition under the Gallatin Land Consolidation Act.

ERP No. F–AFS–J70021–SD, Prairie Project Area, (Lower Rapid Creek Area) Multiple Resource Management Actions, Implementation, Black Hills National Forest, Mystic Ranger District, Pennington County, SD.

Summary: EPA continues to have environmental concerns with erosion and impacts to soils and fish and wildlife habitats from roads and transportation, water runoff and sediment.

ERP No. F–COE–E39060–GA, Lake Sidney Lanier Project to Continue the Ongoing Operation and Maintenance Activities Necessary for Flood Control, Hydropower Generation, Water Supply, Recreation, Natural Resources Management and Shoreline Management, US Army COE Section 10 and 404 Permits, Dawson, Forsyth, Lumpkin, Hill and Gwinnett Counties, GA.

Summary: EPA has no objections to the proposed project.

ERP No. F–FHW–J40154–WY, US 287/26 Improvements Project, Moran Junction to 12 miles west of Dubois to where the roadway traverses thru the Bridger-Teton and Shoshone National Forests and Grand Teton National Park, NPDES and U.S. Army COE Section 404 Permits Issuance, Teton and Fremont Counties, WY.

Summary: EPA has environmental concerns with the preferred alternative regarding impacts to endangered species, habitat, water quality and the National Parks as well as concerns regarding erosion.

ERP No. F–FRC–E03010–FL, Ocean Express Pipeline Project, Construction, Operation and Maintenance of an Interstate Natural Gas Pipeline extending from the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) boundary between the United States and the Bahamas, (Docket No. CP02–090–001–1) Plan of Operations Approval, NPDES and U.S. Army COE Section 10 and Possible 404 Permits, Broward County, FL.

Summary: EPA expressed environmental concerns regarding (1) the uncertainty of the actual level of impacts during proposed pipeline placement, (2) the specifics of the final project mitigation, and (3) the potential for public involvement in certain final project decisions such as contingencies.

ERP No. F–FRC–L05200–OR, Bull Run Hydroelectric Project (FERC No.477–024), Proposal to Decommission the Bull Run Project and Remove Project Facilities including Marmot Dam, Little Sandy Diversion Dam and Roslyn Lake, and an Application to Surrender License, Sandy, Little Sandy, Bull Run Rivers, Town of Sandy, Clackamas County, OR.

Summary: No formal comment letter was sent to the preparing agency.

ERP No. F–USA–C11021–NY, Thomas Jefferson Hall and Other Construction Activities in the Cadet Zone of the United States Military Academy, Implementation, West Point, Hudson River Valley, Orange and Putnam Counties, NY.

Summary: EPA has no objections to the proposed action.

ERP No. FS–BLM–K67051–NV, Millennium Expansion Project, New Facilities Construction and Existing Gold Mining Operations Expansion, Plan-of-Operations Approval, Winnemucca, Humboldt County, NV.

Summary: EPA expressed environmental concerns that additional measures may be needed to minimize potential air impacts and suggests that BLM pursue further reductions of mercury emissions and particulates, and require restoration of vegetation on future evaporation basins.

Dated: January 13, 2004.

Ken Mittelholtz,

Environmental Protection Specialist, Office of Federal Activities.

[FR Doc. 04–1051 Filed 1–15–04; 8:45 am]

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[ER–FRL–6647–4]

Environmental Impact Statements; Notice of Availability

Responsible Agency: Office of Federal Activities, General Information (202) 564–7167 or *http://www.epa.gov/compliance/nepa.*

Weekly receipt of Environmental Impact Statements

Filed January 5, 2004 Through January 9, 2004

Pursuant to 40 CFR 1506.9.

EIS No. 040000, Final EIS, NPS, WA, Fort Vancouver National Historic Site, General Management Plan and Development Concept Plans, Implementation, Oregon County, WA, Wait Period Ends: February 17, 2004, Contact: Alan Schmierer (510) 817–1441.

EIS No. 040001, Draft EIS, BLM, CA, King Range National Conservation Area (KRNCA) Resource Management Plan, Implementation, Humboldt and Mendocino Counties, CA, Comment Period Ends: April 16, 2004, Contact: Lynda J. Roush (707) 825–2300. This document is available on the Internet at: *http://www.ca.blm.gov/aracta/.*

EIS No. 040002, Draft EIS, BLM, AK, Alpine Satellite Development Plan, Proposal to Construct and Operate Five Oil Production Pads, Associated Well, Roads, Airstrips, Pipelines and Powerlines, Northeast Corner of the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska, Colville River Delta, North Slope Borough, AK, Comment Period Ends: March 1, 2004, Contact: James H. Ducker (907) 271–3130. This document is available on the Internet at: *http://www.apline-satellites-eis.com.*

EIS No. 040003, Final EIS, AFS, CA, Giant Sequoia National Monument Management Plan, Implementation, Establishment of Management Directions for Land and Resources, Sequoia National Forest, Fresno, Kern and Tulare Counties, CA, Wait Period Ends: February 27, 2004, Contact: Jim Whitefield (559) 784–1500.

EIS No. 040004, Final EIS, NOA, AK, OR, WA, CA, Programmatic EIS—Pacific Salmon Fisheries Management Plan, Off the Coasts of Southeast Alaska, Washington, Oregon and California, and the Columbia River Basin, Implementation, Magnuson-Stevens Act, AK, WA, OR and CA, Wait Period Ends: February 17, 2004, Contact: D. Robert Lohn (206) 526–6734.

EIS No. 040005, Draft EIS, AFS, ID, WY, ID, EastBridge Cattle Allotment Management Plan Revision (AMP), Authorization of Continued Grazing, Caribou-Targhee National Forest, Soda Springs Ranger District, Caribou and Bonneville County, ID and Lincoln County, WY, Comment Period Ends: March 1, 2004, Contact: Victor Bradfield (208) 547–4356.

EIS No. 040006, Draft EIS, NOA, AK, Essential Fish Habitat Identification and Conservation, Implementation, North Pacific Fishery Management Council, Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, AK, Comment Period Ends: April 15, 2004, Contact: Jon Kurland (907) 586–7638.

EIS No. 040007, Final EIS, DOE, NY, West Valley Demonstration Project, Waste Management, Onsite Management and Offsite Transportation of Radioactive Waste, West Valley, Cattaraugus County, NY, Wait Period Ends: February 27, 2004, Contact: Daniel W. Sullivan (716) 942–4016. This document is available on the Internet at: *http://www.tis.eh.doe.gov/nepa/docs.docs.htm.*

EIS No. 040008, Draft EIS, AFS, MT, UT, WY, ID, Northern Rockies Lynx Amendment, To Conserve and Promote Recovery of the Canada Lynx, NFS and BLM to Amend Land Resource Management Plans for 18 National Forests (NF), MT, WY, UT and ID, Comment Period Ends: April 15, 2004, Contact: Jon Haber (406) 329–3399. This document is available on the Internet at: *http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/planning/lynx.htm1.*

EIS No. 040009, Final EIS, NPS, AR, Arkansas Post National Memorial General Management Plan, Implementation, Osotouy Unit, Arkansas and Mississippi Rivers, Arkansas County, AR, Wait Period Ends: February 17, 2004, Contact: Edward E. Wood, Jr. (870) 548–2207.

EIS No. 040010, Final Supplement EIS, FHW, RI, Jamestown Bridge Replacement, Funding, North Kingstown and Jamestown, Washington and Newport Counties, RI, Wait Period Ends: February 17, 2004, Contact: Ralph Rizzo (401) 528–4548.

EIS No. 040011, Final EIS, NOA, WA, CA, OR, 2004 Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery Management Fishery, Proposed Acceptable Biological Catch and Optimum Yield Specifications and Management Measures, Magnuson-Stevens Act, Exclusive Economic Zone, WA, OR and CA, Wait Period Ends: February 17, 2004, Contact: Robert Lohn (206) 526–6150.

EIS No. 040012, Final EIS, FAA, NY, Adoption-Griffiss Air Force Base (AFB) Disposal and Reuse, Implementation of Federal Aviation Administration's Decisions Relative to Reuse, Oneida County, NY Contact: Marie Janet (516) 227–3811. US Department of Transportation's, Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has Adopted the U.S. Department of the Air Force's (USAF) FEIS #950534, filed 11/09/1995 and FSEIS #990384, filed 10/15/1999. FAA was a Cooperating Agency on the USAF FEIS and FSEIS. Recirculation of the EISs is not necessary under Section 1506.3(c) of the CEQ Regulations.

Amended Notices

EIS No. 030266, Draft EIS, EPA, KY, VA, TN, WV, Programmatic—Mountaintop Mining and Valley Fills Program Guidance, Policies or Regulations to Minimize Adverse Environmental Effects to Waters of the U.S. and Fish and Wildlife Resources, Implementation, Appalachia, Appalachian Study Area, WV, KY, VA and TN, Comment Period Ends: January 21, 2004, Contact: John Forren (EPA) (215) 814–2705. Revision of FR Notice Published on 11/22/03: CEQ Comment Period Ending 1/6/2004 has been Extended to 1/21/2004.

EIS No. 030586, Draft EIS, UAF, 00, Air Force Mission at Johnston Atoll Airfield (Installation) Termination, Implementation, Johnston Atoll is an Unincorporated Territory of the United States, Comment Period Ends: February 17, 2004, Contact: Patricia J. Vokoun (703) 604–5263. Revision of FR Notice Published on 1/2/2004: Title Correction and Removal of the State of Hawaii from the Record. Johnston Atoll is an Unincorporated Territory of the United States.

Dated: January 13, 2004.

Ken Mittelholtz,

Environmental Protection Specialist, Office of Federal Activities.

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BILLING CODE 6560–50–P

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL–7610–8]

Environmental Laboratory Advisory Board (ELAB) Meeting Dates, and Agenda

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice of teleconference meeting.

SUMMARY: The Environmental Protection Agency's Environmental Laboratory Advisory Board (ELAB) will have teleconference meetings on January 21, 2004 at 1 p.m. e.t.; February 18, 2004 at 1 p.m. e.t.; March 17, 2004 at 1 p.m. e.t.; April 21, 2004 at 1 p.m. e.t.; May 19, 2004 at 1 p.m. e.t.; and June 16, 2004 at 1 p.m. e.t. to discuss ideas and views presented at the previous ELAB meetings, as well as new business. Items to be discussed by ELAB over these coming meetings include: the need to increase the participation of laboratories in NELAC; how to ensure the competency of laboratories involved in homeland security responses; environmental measurement issues; implementation of the performance approach to environmental monitoring; and increasing the value of NELAC accreditation. In addition to these teleconferences, ELAB will be hosting a